

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, August 7, 2014

Read by more than 41,000 people

Price when sold 50p

RESPECT

Marking centenary of First World War



PAGE 2

REUNITED

Couple together again after campaign



PAGE 9

Properties proposed on derelict pub land

A DERELICT pub will be demolished under plans to build a housing estate.

Dudley planning officers have recommended that The Freebodies Tavern on St John's Road be knocked down to make way for ten two and three bedroom homes.

The Kates Hill pub has been boarded up for more than five years.

Vandals have attacked the former pub, opposite St John's Church, and there have been problems with fly-tipping.

Now Alps Developments Midlands Limited hope to receive approval to build new homes on the site in three terraced blocks.

Each of the ten homes, which face towards High Street, will have car parking spaces.

The plans are due to go before Dudley Council's development control committee on Monday and have been recommended for approval with the condition that developers retain a public right of way on the site.

Deputy Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho, said: "I am supporting these plans because the pub has been an eyesore on the area for a number of years. Since the building closed it has become a magnet for vandals."

HarryFest at mall car park

A TWO-DAY festival in honour of a young fundraiser is taking place at Merry Hill shopping centre.

HarryFest is this weekend from 10am to 4pm on the Eat Central car park at the Brierley Hill mall.

Harry from Birmingham died aged 11 from a brain tumour in 2011. He set up the charity Help Harry Help Others and raised more than £600,000 for cancer research. The festival is part of a superhero-themed holiday programme and tickets cost £2.50 on the gate.

PETITION AGAINST NEW SHOPS PLAN

MORE than 200 people have signed a petition against plans to create new shops and a takeaway on the site of a motorbike showroom.

Popular dealership Streetbike has revealed plans to relocate the business from its present site at Mucklow Hill to the former Comet electrical store in Dudley Road, Halesowen.

Proposals have been tabled to transform its former base after its proposed move. Heedgrove Ltd aims to create two shops and a takeaway inside the redeveloped building.

Concern

But these plans have caused concern from residents and local councillors who fear increased traffic, litter and noise generated from the site.

Now officers at Dudley Council have recommended that the plans be refused when they come before the authority's planning committee next week.

But the firm says that the scheme could 'increase the vitality of the area' with the introduction of the three new retail units.

A total of 211 people have signed a petition against the proposals with 11 other residents writing letters of objection.

In a letter to the planning department, ward representative Councillor Hilary Bills, said: "For those residents living near to this site this could lead to increased traffic flow, extra noise, fumes and smells."

"The original business on this site was a car dealership, in recent years it has become a motorcycle dealership. Both of these businesses have and had restricted hours. The planned change

By Andrew Turton

of use to convenience store and fast food outlet means that the hours and scale of the operation will greatly increase."

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, also in a letter to the planning authority, added: "There are already queues for much of the day on all roads leading to the Stag island. I am concerned about the impact that the additional traffic will have on the queues."

"Pedestrians already have difficulty crossing Long Lane, Mucklow Hill, and Kent Road due to the volume and speed of traffic, which has been raised with the local police on many occasions."

In a report to the planning committee, officers say they are recommending the plans are refused for factors including 'a significant shortfall' in the number of car parking spaces needed for the businesses.

The site was formerly used by Bells Garage for selling and servicing motor vehicles, before it became a motorbike centre. It has a cafe popular with Black Country and Birmingham bikers.

A decision on the application for the site will be taken at a council meeting in Dudley on Monday.

State-of-the-art fire station opens



Bluewatch at the new fire station — Kev Atkinson, Paul Morris, Dominic Rose, Jamie Law, Matt Crawford and Temple Jones

IT has served the community for 72 years but now new firefighters have bid a fond farewell to their old station as they moved into a state-of-the-art new base.

Cradley Heath's fire station closed its doors for the final time on Monday before personnel pat and present paraded to the newly-built Haden Cross Fire Station on Barrs Road. It is on the site of former municipal buildings.

Station Commander Marc Hudson said saying goodbye to the old fire station was an emotional experience. However, he added: "Haden Cross will provide modern bespoke fire station and community facilities."

Councillor John Edwards, Chairman of

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority, served at Cradley Heath station during his 12-year stint as a firefighter. He said: "The move to the new Haden Cross station fulfils the promise we made to the communities of Cradley Heath and Halesowen. We are providing a new community fire station to provide, not just a first class emergency response, but also prevention and protection services to the people we serve."

A community 'open afternoon' will take place at the new station on September 6.

Horgan Homes has submitted a planning application to demolish the former Halesowen station in Hagley Road and build 14 homes.



Cradley Heath fire station

Homes for over-60s at former school site

A MODERN apartment complex offering dozens of homes for the over-60s is being built on the site of a former school in Hagley.

When completed, the development on Park Road will offer 44 apartments for the over-60s.

Developer McCarthy & Stone plans to put the homes on the market in February next year.

Staff

The Retirement Living development on Park Road will have a mix of one and two bedroom apartments for the over 60s. Facilities include a lounge, an on-site restaurant, guest suite, laundry, lift and car park.

There will be a dedicated manager and staff who are on site 24 hours a day.

Gill Sabin, marketing director for McCarthy & Stone, said: "When complete, the apartments will be low maintenance in design and will benefit from modern fittings, good security and will have a number of specialist features."

"We already have a wide portfolio of retirement properties in Worcestershire which have been hugely popular, so we're expecting demand to be high."

The homes are being built on the site of Hagley Middle School.

Speed limit cut to 30mph

SPEED limits will be cut on a busy dual carriageway after councillors gave the green light this week.

Plans to reduce the limit in Thorns Road, through Quarry Bank and Lye, from 40mph to 30mph have been approved by Dudley Council bosses in a move that has been welcomed by Stourbridge MP Margot Jones.

The 30mph limit will cover all of Thorns Road, as well as parts of Pedmore Road in Lye and Merry Hill to cover a 1.5-mile stretch.

100% Solid Oak
No MDF, Chipboard
or Veneer just
100% Hardwood
FREE Delivery
within 20 miles

THIS WEEK'S OFFERS

★ STAR BUY ★
Kids Coffee Table
Was £229
NOW ONLY
£125

Stainless Steel Dining Table
Was £399
NOW
£319

Stainless Steel Dining Table
Was £319
NOW
£318

Radio Midrange TV Stand
Was £429
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Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Halesowen who can help:

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What's happening in your area? We are always keen to hear about any issues affecting you. E-mail your information and pictures to: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

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Hospital pharmacy plan is put on hold

PLANS to build a community pharmacy outside the main entrance to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital have been put on hold. But health bosses are still working to reduce waiting times for patients.

The £227,000 outpatient pharmacy had been proposed to help reduce the wait for patients to receive medicines and would also provide other services, such as counselling.

Hospital bosses say they are not yet ready to go ahead with the scheme and it would be reviewed again within the next 12 months. In the meantime, the hospital has made changes to ensure waiting times for patients are kept to a minimum. Specialist prescriptions such as those for cancer patients are being delivered to homes.

Paula Clark, Chief Executive of

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, said they were also looking at whether an existing room at the hospital could be used for the pharmacy instead.

She added: "The trust is currently reviewing its capital plans as part of a strategic review to offer the best care to patients. As part of this process the new outpatient pharmacy

is due to be reviewed within the next 12 months. Some specialist medicines such, as those for cancer patients, are already being supplied direct to patients' homes, which has reduced the amount of time they spend waiting for medicines.

"An alternative use of existing accommodation at Russells Hall Hospital is also being explored to help improve our patients' experience."

Council housing to get a £15m revamp

THOUSANDS of council homes across Dudley will be refurbished in a £15 million project.

Money will be spent upgrading kitchens and bathrooms, repairing roofs, rewiring and installing new central heating.

Empty homes, which need major repair work, will also be brought up to scratch so they can be rented out again. It is hoped that this will help to reduce the waiting list for

properties in the borough. Figures show that at the start of the year there were around 570 'void' houses in Dudley whilst 4,191 people are on the waiting list.

Up to 3,000 properties will be refurbished during the next three years and the scheme will also create jobs for young workers with six apprentices and a graduate being taken on to join the team of contractors.

Contract

Chairman of Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations, Martin Smith, welcomed the announcement.

He said: "It's always good to see new money being invested in properties.

"We have been saying to the council for some time that money needed to be spent on the void properties, so I am impressed that this is being done. It will make a big difference."

Dudley Council has signed a contract with firms Keepmoat and Lovell to carry out the work. The programme will run at the same times as work is carried out by the council's housing repairs team.

Neil Baxter, regional director for Keepmoat, said: "We've always prided ourselves on our continued commitment to training and apprenticeships.

"Over the next three years we'll be recruiting six apprentices as well as a graduate, and work experience opportunities for local people."

Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, said on April 21 Beresford went to the hospital as a patient but was escorted from the building due to his drunkenness. He later returned holding a metal pole.

"He was acting aggressively. Security staff were concerned about their safety," said Mr Rees. During a struggle with guards, a fence at the hospital was pushed to the ground.

Miss Laura Culley said Beresford's behaviour was out of character, adding: "His reaction was clouded by what he had to drink."

Beresford was also ordered to pay £250 costs.

From new generation to the old



David Burt's five-year-old daughter Charlotte pays her tribute at Lye war memorial

IT was a headline which sparked a global conflict and led to the deaths of millions.

Britain had given Germany an ultimatum after their invasion of neutral Belgium. They had until 11pm on August 4, 1914, to make concessions or Britain would declare war. None were made.

One hundred years later, hundreds across Dudley borough and millions around the world were marking this most sombre of centenaries.

In Dudley on Friday night Mayor Coun-

cillor Margaret Aston attended a civic service at Top Church.

She said: "The people of Dudley have really taken the Great War anniversary to their hearts."

On Sunday at Christ Church, Lye, there was a wreath laying ceremony. David Burt, 38, of the Boys' Brigade, gave an honour salute while his daughter Charlotte, five, laid a cross.

He said: "They rang the bells of Christ Church 100 times before we started."

Courts are dedicated to a club stalwart

A TENNIS club has opened four new courts in memory of a club stalwart who died after a battle with cancer.

Wollaston Tennis Club, in Stourton, has spent £130,000 on the facilities which have been named the Hanby Courts, in memory of Len Hanby who died two years ago aged 77 and 47 years service to the club.

Mr Hanby and his wife, Janet, had been members of the Wollaston club for nearly half a century, since its move to Prestwood Drive.

Mr Hanby, of Hagley Road, Pedmore, was made a life member of the club in 1997 and served on Staffordshire Lawn Tennis Association Council from 1970 to 2007, acting as its treasurer for eight years and becoming a vice president.

During his time with Wollaston Tennis Club, Mr Hanby served in almost all roles including president, chairman, treasurer and secretary and, despite his illness, was still active on club business in the weeks up to his death in October 2012. He obtained many grants and loans for the club.

The club has also added improved floodlighting to ensure the tennis can be played into the evening.

Arson probe at empty pub

FIRE crews battled to bring a blaze under control at an empty pub in Stourbridge.

The alert was raised in the early hours of Sunday as motorists saw smoke billowing from the Bulls Head in Pedmore Lane.

Firefighters conducted a search of the building and discovered several fires appeared to have been lit around the two-storey brick-built property but found no one. Crews from Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Cradley attended.

The ground floor was gutted and the cause is being investigated.

Festival of quilts

FINAL preparations are under way for the Festival of Quilts at Birmingham NEC from today to Sunday from 10am each day. It is Europe's leading patchwork and quilting show with around 350 exhibitors. Admission is £5. See www.thefestivalofquilts.co.uk

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Hundreds in farewell to popular comedian

HUNDREDS of mourners were attending the funeral of Black Country comic Tommy Mundon on Wednesday.

Mr Mundon, of Halesowen, who was aged 80, died at Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge on July 21 after a long battle against Parkinson's disease.

The service of celebration and thanksgiving for the popular entertainer was taking place at Hasbury Methodist Church in Halesowen.

Veteran funnyman Ken Dodd and Alan 'Aynuk' Smith were among the comedians who paid tribute to the comic from Halesowen.

Mr Mundon was a regular on the comedy circuit for 50 years and was one of the stars on Black Country Night Out. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Val, and daughter Caroline.

The showbusiness veteran from Alexandra Road had been freed to quit the comedy circuit two years ago because of ill health.

Mr Mundon's son in law, Aaron Hickman, said: "The family have been left deeply saddened at his loss but at least he is now at peace. He was a showman on stage but just a normal husband, dad and granddad at home."

Tunnel plan is delayed again

PLANS to turn the historic Drakelow Tunnels into a museum have hit delays.

Wyre Forest District Council was expected to make a decision this summer on the proposals for the network of wartime tunnels carved out of the sandstone under Kinver Edge.

Officials last week said the 'planning process was still continuing' but no date was set. It is not the first time the project has been hit by delays. A decision was expected in December but was put back after the district council requested more detailed proposals.

Art goes on sale

BLACK Country Artists club will be holding an exhibition and sale of arts and crafts from Monday to Saturday at Hurst Green Methodist Church, in Narrow Lane, Halesowen, from 10.30am to 5pm daily. Admission is free. For details call 0121 421 3571.

Relief for traders as town centre roads open

ROADS in Dudley town centre which have been shut for more than six months are to re-open today with the completion of the first phase of a £6.7million regeneration project.

Castle Street and New Street, closed since the start of the year, will open as work on the revamp of Dudley's market place enters the next phase.

Bus routes will begin operating as normal along both roads and Fisher Street this week.

Closure of the roads, in the heart of the town centre, proved controversial with

traders saying it has led to a significant drop in trade. The three roads were closed to traffic to allow work to begin on the first phase.

Stone has been laid on roads and pavements and new parking bays created in Castle Street.

Parking

Disabled parking, a drop off point for park and ride and a motorcycle bay have also been created.

New lighting columns have been installed along with seating and litter bins.

Work was originally due for completion in May but hit delays due to problems posed by underground pipes and cables.

Some shops along the roads said their trade had been hit hard.

Sofi Hickenbottom, who runs the Sofi's Paice chip shop in Castle Street, said: "It has hit me very badly."

"A lot of my business is from passing trade and obviously people have not been able to stop outside the shop."

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "There have been some delays along the way, which is inevitable with a

scheme of this size. I would sincerely like to thank all shops and businesses for their continued support, working with them has proved to be beneficial for all concerned as well as the town overall."

He added: "I am very much looking forward to seeing phase two unfold."

Further works to take place in Castle Street include the lighting of St Edmund's Church and improvements to the Earl of Dudley statue.

The overall project is due to be completed by early 2015.

Centre is ready to train hundreds of paramedics

A PARAMEDIC training facility has been opened to help cope with a huge influx of students.

West Midlands Ambulance Service has taken over the first floor of Dudley College's campus in Brierley Hill after running out of space at its current facility in Baggeridge.

That is because the service will be taking on 265 student paramedics and 50 graduate paramedics over the coming year as part of a major recruitment drive.

Dudley Road centre may become a permanent home for the service's training when the lease runs at Baggeridge next year.

Training at the campus began this month with the service expected to ramp up its operations as more trainees are taken on. It will also be used for the continuous training of current employees and the 159 students recruited over the past year.

Kim Nurse, the ambulance trust's director of workforce and organisational development, said: "With the trust having such a major programme of training and development, ensuring we have the best education facilities available for our staff is key."

"Securing the accommodation at Dudley College will assist us in improving the facilities for our staff to develop skills, which will have a direct impact on the care that we are able to provide to patients."

The college will be run as the service's training centre for 12 months on a temporary basis but could then be taken on permanently in June. Mrs Nurse added: "Longer term, we are looking at what the best options are for the trust. This may involve bringing a number of current education locations together on one site."

Detective Constable Chris Smith from CID in Brierley Hill said: "One staff member has received treatment at the scene for head injuries."

"Police are carrying out forensics and ongoing inquiries at the scene. We are appealing for anyone who may have seen the robbery or anyone who may have information to contact us as soon as possible."

Call Brierley Hill CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Diving with the Duke of Cambridge



The Duke of Cambridge shakes hands with diver Dave Billingham, of Stourbridge, pictured next to his son Tom

A TEENAGER and his father got the chance to go scuba diving with the Duke of Cambridge at an event in London.

Tom Billingham, 17, of Stourbridge, and his father Dave, were among a small group who met Prince William at a reception also attended by the Prince of Wales.

It was held at the Oasis lido in London's West End to mark the handover of the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) presidency.

The Duke, who learned to dive with the BSAC, has followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather to take the helm of the BSAC, the UK's governing body for snorkelling and scuba diving. He has spoken of how he hopes his presidency will inspire his son George and other youngsters to take the plunge.

They joined around 100 BSAC members to mark the handover and thank the Prince of Wales for his four decades of leadership.

Among them were Tom, of Seymour Road, a student at Halesowen College, and his father Dave, 49, an engineer, who are members of BSAC branch club Dudley Dolphins and were invited to join in the dive.

Tom, said: "It was fantastic to be part of the BSAC scuba diving team and a once in a lifetime opportunity to be there. The Duke was very confident underwater and it felt very safe diving with him. It is a brilliant sport to get into and I really enjoy it."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cannabis farm found in house

DOZENS of cannabis plants were found by police in a raid at a house in Quinton.

Officers swooped on a property in Quinton Road and found a cannabis farm in three upstairs bedrooms.

Around 25 large cannabis plants were discovered during the raid at 7.15am on Monday.

Officers from West Midlands Police said the three rooms had been converted for the purpose of cultivating the class B drug.

Force spokesman Pete Edney said: "Our investigations are continuing."

Mayor recruits helpful cadets

THE Mayor of Dudley has brought new recruits into her army of volunteers.

Young people from the Dudley detachment of the Staffordshire & West Midlands (North Sector) Army Cadet Force are ambassadors for Mayor Councillor Margaret Aston.

The cadets will accompany the mayor at civic events and be part of her fundraising initiatives. Councillor Mrs Aston said: "Young people have such a positive role to play in the borough."

Hotels chain hit by higher costs

THE Millennium and Copthorne Hotels group, which includes hotels in Brierley Hill and Birmingham, saw pre-tax profit and revenue fall in the first six months of this year.

Revenue per room was down 2.4 per cent to £65.67 and profit before tax slipped to £58.4m. The group said the decline was due to higher costs, stronger sterling and challenging Asian markets.

Blitz on beauty spot biker menace

POLICE have put up signs around a beauty spot in Brierley Hill warning people not to ride off-road motorbikes over it.

Officers say tackling the problem on the Fens Pool Nature Reserve remains a priority and, if necessary, they will call upon helicopter support to help catch illegal riders who have prompted complaints.

Homes proposed

PLANS for five homes on the site of former garages have been submitted to Dudley Council. If permission is granted, the two and three-bedroom homes will be built at Southwick Road, Halesowen.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



OUR changing language. Closing a number of Muslim bank accounts, HSBC says it's because they "fall outside our risk appetite." We journalists, being wordsmiths trained in economy and accuracy of language, would never use such jargon. Wanna bet? Reporting on the departure of a newspaper boss, the media website Hold the Front Page announces: "He has worked to transform the company from a primarily print and product-focussed group to a customer and community-focussed media solutions business." Ye gods and little fishes.

THIS titbit, from a reader in a waspish mood, is supposedly an English teacher consoling a pupil who has just failed English GCSE: "There, they're, their."

AS the First World War commemorations reach their climax, a reader raises a fascinating question. Who is the youngest child of a veteran of the 1916 Battle of the Somme? He believes his sister, aged 70, is a contender. Many Somme veterans were still around in the 1980s and some may have married more than once. It is possible that someone alive today in their 60s or even their 50s had a father who went over the top on July 1, 1916.

WHEN geeky, gawky Ed Miliband acknowledged his weird looks and admitted he'd never win a photo-opportunity, he was trying to stress his deeper, invisible qualities. I was reminded of Iain Duncan Smith's darkest hour in 2003. The then Tory leader growled: "Do not underestimate the determination of a quiet man." But it was a quiet, desperate sort of growl and it didn't work the miracle. One pundit labelled IDS "the quiet man who has much to be quiet about." It will probably be the same with Miliband. To be fair, there are a number of reasons why someone may appear weird. They may have inherited a shifty look. They may possess an awkward sort of face. They may have a deep-rooted problem with bacon sandwiches. But one of the commonest reasons for a bloke looking weird is that he is weird. Prepare for the weird man entering Number Ten. The constituency boundaries are now so unfair that any Labour leader in the past 100 years could beat the Tories. With the obvious exception of Neil Kinnock.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Clothes are destroyed in blaze at factory

FLAMES ripped through a Black Country factory destroying thousands of items of clothing as plumes of smoke rose to more than 50ft high.

More than 35 firefighters tackled the blaze at the Unit 54B factory premises off Hainge Road, Tiv-dale.

Workers watched from behind cordons and a nearby firm was evacuated as a precaution as nine fire crews arrived on site, filling the road with fire engines.

A manager from a neighbouring business dialled 999 to alert crews after thick black smoke set off fire alarms in their own premises.

Concerns

The severity of the blaze forced West Midlands Fire Service to call in extra crews after teams from Dudley and Oldbury were initially called at around 11am on Tuesday. Crews from Tipton, Aston, Ladywood, Brierley Hill and Handsworth joined them at the scene.

West Midlands Ambulance Service paramedics were called in due to safety concerns for firefighters and police taped off the site, while teams set to work dampening down flames at the single storey unit.

The blaze destroyed household goods and clothing bundles.

By Andrew Turton

Fire officers brought in machinery to help move piles of clothes to ensure flames were doused underneath.

Lee Baker, command support officer, said: "It was dangerous conditions. There was a basement and heavy loading equipment to consider."

"The building has been saved but all stock has been destroyed by the fire or is smoke damaged."

Police and ambulance incident response units were also at the scene and the road was closed off for a short period while engines arrived. But the industrial estate remained open throughout the day.

The owner of the unit was present as fire crews arrived but no-one was in the unit when the fire broke out.

The fire took six hours to extinguish.

Family first for golden girl



Jodie Stimpson celebrates with her cousin Lydia Baggott

GOLDEN girl Jodie Stimpson was mobbed by fans when she took part in her first competition since winning two gold medals in the Commonwealth Games.

Back on home soil on Sunday she led the way in a new running and swimming event named in her honour - The Jodie Stimpson Aquathlon - at Sandwell Valley Country Park. It turned into a family affair when her five-months pregnant sister Carrie took part in the swim across Swan Pool and mum Judy joined her in the sprint.

The 25-year-old from Oldbury, who spent two hours signing autographs and posing for pictures, said her feet still had not touched the ground since her success in Glasgow. She said: "It's been overwhelming - manic, to be honest, but absolutely fantastic"

Around 100 people competed in the event organised by Jodie's old club, Oldbury Swimming and Triathlon Club, and Sport England.

Jodie is already back in training for final two events in the Triathlon World Series in Sweden and Canada.

Cemetery expansion space for 20 years

WORK to expand Dudley Cemetery to create dozens of new burial plots will start later this year after councillors approved funding for the project.

The council had feared Dudley could run out of plots by the autumn if more space wasn't found.

Just 140 plots remained and the situation was described as 'critical'.

Plans for a £200,000 extension on a former football pitch off Cleve Road were drawn up.

Diversity

The new site will have enough burial space to last approximately 20 years and will include fencing, gates, paths and parking bays. It will include 1,000 plots and will be able to cater for all religions.

There will also be 150 cremated remains plots and 140 small plots.

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We are spending up to £200,000 extending the amount of burial space we have in Dudley, to resolve the well publicised shortage we have."

"The new facility will be able to cater for specific religious needs which is something that is very important to us with the rich diversity we have in the borough."

It was approved at last week's cabinet meeting.



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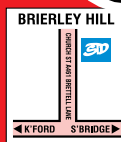
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Bendy bus could ease commute into city

RESIDENTS of Quinton and Bearwood look set to benefit from a £15 million rapid transport service that will connect them with Birmingham city centre.

The hybrid Sprint bus will initially be trialled between the city centre and Quinton. The route will include a number of stops on Hagley Road West, Bearwood.

The Sprint has been dubbed 'Metro's Little Sister' by Centro, the authority behind the plan.

The bendy bus will run along dedicated lanes with priority traffic signalling to speed up journeys. Similar systems are in use in Swansea, Las Vegas and Lyon.

It will be fitted with a diesel-electric hybrid, making it cheaper to run and less polluting than conventional buses. The bus will also be more luxurious and offer WiFi. It will also be fitted with high definition CCTV.

Centro chief executive Geoff Inskip said: "Sprint is part of the vision we have for a world-class public transport system in the West Midlands. By offering a fast and reliable alternative to the car we believe we can get more people on to public transport, thus reducing traffic congestion that costs this region's economy £2.3 billion a year."

If the plans are approved, construction could start in 2015 and be completed within 18 months.

Truth is stranger than fiction as Janice's dream comes true

AFTER receiving harsh criticism for a story she had written from a teacher, teenager Janice Preston closed the book on her dreams of becoming an author.

But her passion for prose could not be dimmed and now, at the age of 58, her debut novel has been published by romantic fiction giant Mills and Boon. It has taken the former agricultural worker a long time but her dream came true when Mary and the Marquis was printed this week.

By Lee Watton

The Regency-set romance as the novel is also being published in North America.

Janice, who lives in Hayley Green with second husband Ian, said: "It is really exciting to hold a book you have written in your hands. I can hardly believe I have realised my childhood dream of becoming a published author. It really is never too late."

Janice, who has two children, two step-children and a grandson, enjoyed penning her own stories while attending school but her love of storytelling was crushed during her teenage years.

She vividly recalls, aged 13, trying to impress one teacher with her story. "When I got the story back the teacher had scrawled 'women's magazine trash' on the top of the story," she said. "After that I never wrote again for years."

After leaving school at 18, Janice moved to Devon to work on a farm where she

met her first husband. She only started writing again in 2000 after her children went to university but stopped again following the breakdown of her marriage.

Janice, who moved to Halesowen in 2004, picked up her pen again in 2009 while recovering from an operation on her foot. "It was out of boredom really," she said.

A short story was published in an anthology, which spurred her on even though her first attempt to write for Mills and Boon was rejected. "The story was not quite right," she said.

Janice joined the Romantic Novelists Association's New Writers Scheme and, after receiving advice from authors, she was given a two book deal by Mills and Boon.

"When I look back I realise I should not have been deterred when I was a teenager," she added.



The write stuff – a dream comes true for author Janice Preston with her romantic novel, Mary and the Marquis

NEWS IN BRIEF

Coffee shop gets help from police

A COFFEE shop staffed by disabled people has been given a cash lifeline thanks to support from police.

Coffee Cups, in Thornhill Road, Halesowen, is run by Hal Holmes. Last month it received a £500 donation from the neighbourhood policing team in Belle Vale. The cash will be spent on equipment to ensure the group can continue to provide workplace training. Officers will also use the venue for drop-in sessions.

The donation came from the Police Property Act fund, from the sale at auction of property recovered by police when the owner cannot be found.

Over five years West Midlands Police has donated over £5 million to deserving groups.

Discounts to mark Glasgow Games

PEOPLE inspired by the Commonwealth Games at Glasgow are being urged to get active in the Black Country.

Dudley Council has marked the 80th birthday of the Commonwealth Games by slashing the price of its Lifestyles membership by more than a third at Dudley Leisure Centre, Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge and at Halesowen Leisure Centre.

For more details on the Lifestyles membership visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport or call Dudley, Crystal and Halesowen leisure centres on (01384) 812800.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

WOULD you believe it? Well, no, actually.

Researchers at Oxford University have found that youngsters who play computer games for at least an hour a day turn out to be happier, more sociable, and less hyperactive than those who don't.

In other words, sitting in a darkened room, wearing a gothic T-shirt and shouting 'Die' at the computer screen is a sort of 21st century way to make friends and influence people.

Of course it is. Now those 'researchers', were they students by any chance?

□ □ □ □
AFTER being diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 48, hospice worker Geraldine Jones made a bucket list of things she wanted to do before she died.

Among them was riding a horse across a deserted beach.

After three years, Mrs Jones was given the all-clear, and to celebrate she decided to do the ride on Llangennith beach on the Gower peninsula.

She died from head injuries sustained while falling from the horse.

It is impossible to think what her family must be going through at the moment, but at least she did die doing something she loved.

But this just shows that life can be very cruel sometimes.

□ □ □ □

SOME years ago, the Government reduced vehicle excise duty for small, diesel engined cars to £30.

This was presumably in the belief that they were environmentally friendly.

Now, in order to discourage people from driving diesel-engined cars, Mayor of London Boris Johnson is threatening to double the congestion charge in the city for those using such vehicles.

Inevitably, local councils up and down the country say they are now considering measures to penalise diesel drivers in the name of cracking down on pollution.

And you wonder why there is so much scepticism about all this environmental malarkey?

□ □ □ □

A FOOTBALLER is found guilty of not trying to win a football match, and they call it throwing the game.

A lifetime ban and possible criminal prosecutions loom.

Lewis Hamilton defies his manager's instructions, and tries to win a motor race.

He is blasted for not being a team player.

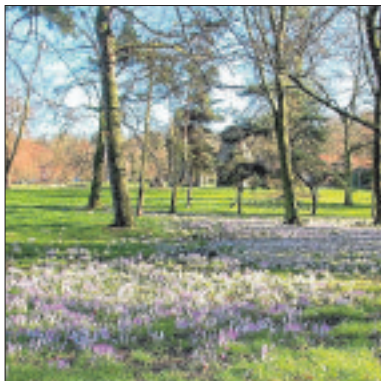
No, I've never understood motor racing, either.



Haden Hall, showing the garden, which was accredited



West Park, not entered into the contest due to costs



One of the winners in Dudley, the lovely Priory Park

Awards flag up our green Black Country

Park life is alive and well as well-kept gardens continue to earn national accolades. **HEATHER LARGE** reports

FROM parks and playing fields to nature reserves and allotments – green spots across the West Midlands have all been awarded the coveted Green Flag award for their beauty.

Sandwell topped the charts in the Black Country and Staffordshire with 12 sites earning the accolade.

However there are none in Wolverhampton for the second year running after bosses failed to enter the awards despite boasting beauty spots such as Bantock Park and West Park because they said they couldn't afford it.

Wolverhampton Council's leisure chief Councillor Elias Mattu said: "In future years we hope to enter the competition as soon as our financial situation has improved. At the moment we are struggling and other council services are our priority. This does not reflect negatively on our parks or park keepers who do an excellent job." He said it costs around £8,000 to enter which he said the authority could not justify.

Allotments

Among the sites in Sandwell to receive the green flag, which is considered the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK, are Sandwell Valley Country Park, Tipton Cemetery, Victoria Park in Smethwick and Moorlands Allotments in West Bromwich.

Haden Hill Park in Cradley has received the Green Heritage Accreditation for the sixth year which is specifically for historic sites.

Council chiefs in the borough said they were delighted. Councillor Maria



Sandwell Valley Country Park one of the borough's Green Flag winners

GREEN FLAG WINNERS:

CANNOCK: Cannock Park; Castle Ring – Green Heritage Accreditation; Elmore Park; Ravenhill Park .

LICHFIELD: Beacon Park
SOUTH STAFFS: Baggeridge Country Park; Wom Brook Walk, Wombourne

STAFFORD: Stafford Crematorium; Tixall Road; Victoria Park

DUDLEY: Huntingtree Park, Halesowen; Netherton Park, Netherton; Priory Park, Dudley; Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley; The Leasowes, Halesowen – Green Heritage Accreditation; Wollescote Park, Wollescote; Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve

Crompton, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for environment, said: "People might not think of Sandwell as a place thriving with green spaces – but our Green Flag awards help to bust any myths that the borough is just an urban jungle. I am immensely proud that the people living in all our six towns have a Green Flag park within their area be-

WALSALL: Merriens Wood; Palfrey Park; Rough Wood and Bentley Haye; Willenhall Memorial Park

SANDWELL: Barnford Park, Oldbury; Brunswick Park, Wednesbury; Haden Hill Park, Cradley Heath – Green Heritage Accreditation; Sandwell Valley Country Park; Sandwell Valley Crematorium; Tipton Cemetery; Victoria Park, Smethwick; Victoria Park, Tipton; Dingley Road Allotments, Wednesbury – Green Flag Community Award; Barnford and Farm Road Allotments, Oldbury – Green Flag Community Award; Moorlands Allotments, West Bromwich – Green Flag Community Award Warley Woods

cause they offer such a lot to the community including a place of recreation and peace and quiet."

While in Dudley there are seven winners including grade-I listed The Leasowes in Halesowen which also won the Green Heritage Accreditation, Huntingtree Park, Halesowen and Priory Park, Dudley and Silver Jubilee

Park, Coseley as well as Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve, Dudley.

Environment and culture chief Councillor Hilary Bills said: "Our borough is blessed with a number of beautiful green spaces and I am delighted that the hard work of our teams and members of the local community is being recognised with this prestigious status."

In Walsall, both Willenhall Memorial Park and Palfrey Park – for the eighth and seventh years running respectively – earned the accolade, as well as Merriens Wood and Rough Wood and Bentley Haye.

Councillor Anthony Harris, portfolio holder for leisure and culture with Walsall Council Coalition, added: "This is tremendous news for our much-loved countryside sites."

"Merriens Wood really draws you in. It's a smashing wildlife haven and you can completely lose yourself in its beauty. I'm so pleased it has deservedly retained its Green Flag."

"And congratulations to Rough Wood and Bentley Haye for their first time success. It's a real boost for the volunteers who care about the site so passionately and support our countryside staff."

Baggeridge Country Park near Sedgley and Wom Brook Walk in Wombourne, which are both run by South Staffordshire Council, received the award. While Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Gardens, Bewdley and Broadwaters Park, Kidderminster are also celebrating the accolade.

Nationally a record number of parks, cemeteries, university campuses and shopping centres – 1,476 in total – will be displaying their Green Flag Award.

Birmingham is in the UK Top Ten of places with the most awards, with 16, making it joint seventh.

Sites receiving the accolade include Cannon Hill Park, Sutton Coldfield Crematorium and Bournville Village Green. First-time winners include the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London, which opened to the public in April.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

NIGEL Hastlow is standing in for Daniel who is on holiday

IS there really any difference between Nigel Farage and Alex Salmond?

Or, to put it another way, is UKIP's ambition for a country free from the shackles of the European Union any different from the Scottish Nationalists' desire to be rid of Westminster?

Both parties appeal to the same nationalist – some would say parochial and isolationist – instincts.

How could a supporter of Britain's independence from Europe quibble if the Scots felt the same way about England?

The sight of Alex Salmond lording it around Glasgow like the King of the Commonwealth Games is enough to infuriate most Brits. The leader of the Scots Nats clearly hopes the games will be another nail in the coffin of the historic United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

This is not unlike Nigel Farage's hope that success in May's Euro elections will translate into a breakthrough in next year's General Election.

Mr Farage may be a Home Counties gin-and-tonic man compared to Mr Salmond's highland whisky. But is Mr Farage wrapping himself in the Union Jack really very different from Mr Salmond in a Saltire?

Both men come from outside the established political parties. They are both adept populists. They both articulate deeply-held views which are ignored by mainstream politicians. They are both 'people's politicians'. But there is a difference between them – history. Mr Farage has history on his side; Mr Salmond does not.

England and Scotland have, for all practical purposes, been a single unified country since 1603. That's when Henry VII's great-great grandson James IV of Scotland took over from Elizabeth I and became James I of England as well. He called himself King of Great Britain and Ireland.

The two countries were formally united 100 years later and, despite a few ups and downs, they have been happily and successfully united ever since.

In the intervening three centuries or so, England and Scotland worked peacefully together as one nation (along with the Welsh and many of the Irish) to create a global powerhouse.

Yet when we look at Britain's – not just England's – relations with the rest of Europe, things look quite different. For centuries we have worked to keep the peace across the English Channel. We have been forced to sacrifice lives at frighteningly regular intervals to rescue Europe from its own folly that is why we are marking the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. It was not a conflict of our making.

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New era of lower wages and higher rents

ANYONE who doubts that the UK has moved into a low paid service industry economy only needs to look at the rapid increase in amateur landlords offering houses for rent. Rented accommodation has doubled over the last ten years whilst home ownership has fallen from 70 per cent to 60 per cent.

We are rapidly moving back towards the Rachmanism of the 1950s when immigrants were exploited in London and rent controls had to be brought in.

There is a perceived myth that builders have vast land banks which should be used for house building. This is a

smokescreen put forward by governments to hide the fact that house price inflation is controlled by the supply of easy finance, a trick used to make homeowners feel better off, particularly where votes can be generated.

The rich are certainly getting richer but so are the greedy. Councillors in Dudley who gave themselves a large increase in expenses a few years ago whilst seeing fit to reduce public services. In fairness, some elected members do not claim their fees, which was the case in the 1950s when after a meeting they were lucky to get their

bus fare home. They have also started calling committees 'cabinets' to make it sound as though they are worth more remuneration.

Zero hours contracts are an indication that an economy is moving downwards because this can distort unemployment figures. The scenario we now find ourselves in is the result of production going to Third World countries in the quest for cheap labour. The plight we now face will be difficult to reverse.

**R SLIMM
Dudley**

Council's justification is an insult

IT'S no surprise that Labour councillors have opposed the move to cut their numbers by a third.

Saving money is not what they are about, more like wasting it and blaming Government cuts.

It makes you question what the extra 24 are doing for their fat little earners — absolutely nothing, apparently.

The reason given by David Sparks is that we could do without them but, as all the other councils are over-manned, we won't be different. This is an insult to council tax payers.

The worrying thing is this man is in charge and, with a Labour Government backing him, I fear that the days of council tax freezes and better services are coming to an end and the return of massive public spending is imminent.

**D SHAKESPEARE
Halesowen**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Driver education more vital than speed limits

I SEE that Thorns Road, Quarry Bank, is to have its 40mph speed limit reduced to 30mph.

I would firstly like to say that the unfortunate death of the man who was knocked down by a lorry was not due to speed but that of an attacker who forced the man to run into path of the vehicle. Secondly, reducing the speed will not cure any problem Thorns Road has. What is needed is driver education and this can only be dealt with at the learning stage of driving. Following this, tough action must be taken against drivers who disregard any speed limit.

How many times have those driving legally on a clear road found in the next viewing of their rear view mirror that they have a vehicle on their bumper? This can only be because that driver is breaking whatever the limit is. On learning to drive I was told by a very wise man: 'anyone can drive fast, it's stopping that is the problem'. On taking an advanced driving course, before getting behind a wheel we were told 'at times 5mph is too fast and at other times 70mph is not fast enough'. It is all to do with driver judgement, awareness and, most importantly, observations. If drivers disregard any one of those, the standard of driving in this country will continue to cause death and injury.

**P LOWE
Brierley Hill**

Hippodrome could fill in for Civic Hall

I SEE Wolverhampton Civic Hall is looking for a temporary venue, what's wrong with Dudley Hippodrome?

If West Bromwich is looking to compete with the Civic, I can only assume live entertainment is pretty popular these days. Why can't Dudley Council see this?

They harp on about theatres struggling but they don't listen to me. I live in the real world. I know entertainers are crying out for the Hippo to reopen. It can be a multi-purpose venue that can cater for bands easily, also as theatre in the future too.

Good luck to the Civic, I've been there many times, and the Grand for that matter. Hat's off to West Bromwich for supporting its lovely Town Hall. And open your eyes DMBC. Stop trying to destroy our amazing Black Country heritage and start going out more. To the Hippodrome!

**G SAWERS
(Black Country Gaz)
Brierley Hill**

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Together again after 18 months of heartbreak

THEY met, fell in love and married 14 years ago — only to have their lives ripped apart when immigration officials stopped them living together in the UK.

Eighteen months after their struggle with the Home Office began, Robert and Adna Cooper are back in each others' arms in Dudley after winning a landmark appeal.

Adna, 35, has been granted a visa to move back to the UK from her homeland of Brazil to be with her 39-year-old husband. It came after Adna, who was refused permanent entry to the UK last year, won an appeal process which ended in May with an immigration hearing in Birmingham.

Home

Robert was finally able to bring his wife home to Pensnett last week. The pair, who have spent about £5,000 on legal costs, are desperate to move on with their lives following their ordeal.

Robert, a pastor for the First Renewal Presbyterian Church, said: "It has been really difficult for her. She felt almost like a second class citizen, not being allowed to return here with me." Adna said: "It was an extremely difficult period for me, the whole situation of being refused, being apart, unable to carry on with our lives, spending all our savings, was unbearable."

The couple met when Robert, a former pupil at Pensnett School, was doing church work in the suburbs of Sao Paulo in 1999. They returned to the UK the following year and Adna was given a resident visa before they married at Kingswinford Christian Centre in July. After returning to Brazil in 2003, the pair encountered problems on wanting to return to the UK ten years later.



Reunited — married couple Robert and Adna Cooper, of Pensnett

Under new immigration rules, only British people who earn more than £18,600 can sponsor their non-European spouse's visa. Robert earned enough but he was unable to get payslips to prove it due to his employer being a non-profit organisation and the pair were forced to live apart.

The pair managed to overturn the Home Office decision after giving evidence at a hearing in Birmingham and the pair now live with Robert's parents in Comber Drive. Robert said: "They are discriminating and being unfair to many families. We are not just numbers and names, we are people."

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RAFA members at the clubhouse in Dixons Green Road, Dudley, in the 1970s



RAFA members working on the clubhouse in Dixons Green Road, Dudley, in 1974



Members enjoying a beer and comradeship at the Dudley branch of RAFA

RAF Association branch seeking new members

ONCE hundreds of members came together in remembrance, raised a pint with their comrades and enjoyed social evenings.

But now a Royal Air Force Association branch is facing an uncertain future unless they attract a new generation of members.

The 821 (Dudley) branch of the Royal Air Force Association has a proud history dating back almost 70 years.

Some earned their wings in Hurricane fighters as battles raged in the skies during the Second World War while others grafted during their National Service.

Numbers of veterans have dwindled over the years from hundreds until now only three active full members remain.

Two associate members, those who have not served for the RAF, also attend meetings and have helped draft a new social calendar.

MEMORY LANE

By Andrew Turlon

The group hope to attract some of the 50 members still on the books back to regular meetings while also bringing new people on board. Otherwise members may have to instead join the Wolverhampton branch.

Flying the flag for the branch are three members who still hold weekly meetings for free at the Ex-Service-men's Club, in Hall Street, Dudley.

Future

This year marks the 50th year that branch president John Deane, aged 77, has been involved with the association. Having joined the Air Training Corp in 1951 he went on to complete two years of National Service with the RAF.

Mr Deane, of Kingswinford, said they were keen to ensure the club has a future as well as a proud past. "We are struggling. It would be a shame if it could not continue," he added.

Branch secretary Sergeant Stan West, of Tipton, joined the RAF Association branch around seven years ago. He had previously been part of the 347 Squadron working in air electronics.

"One of the problems that we know is that certain people, because of age, don't want to come out at night. But if they arrange it for us then we would pick them up," he said.

The club opened in 1947 in a rented room over the old Dudley Fire Station in Priory Road. In December 1972 the association bought the former home of Bob Kennedy, impresario of Dudley Hippodrome, in Dixons Green Road. Many social events and charity fundraisers were held over the years. Among well known members was George Heritage, one of the last Hurricane pilots and a survivor of three plane crashes.

The clubhouse was sold four years ago. Now the group meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 8pm at the Ex-Servicemen's Club. To find out more call John on (01384) 830574 or Stan on 0121 530 2970.



RAFA on the march taking part in a Remembrance Day parade in Dudley in the early 1970s



President John Deane, vice-chairman Tony Timmins, associate member Margaret Bloomer and Secretary Sgt Stan West

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Teachers go after they tot up over 100 years

SCHOOLS out for more than just the summer for three Sandwell teachers who have retired after clocking up more than 100 years teaching between them.

Maggie Brookes, aged 58, notched up 37 years teaching at schools in the area.

Her final job was as headteacher of Warley Infant School in Oldbury, a role she had for 12 years.

"I was only 21 when I started teaching," she said. "I started at Hall Green Primary in West Bromwich. I had a temporary contract for one term and ended up staying for 16 years."

"I can't believe it has come to an end. I had always planned to retire early but I don't know what I will do without the children and their families. I am looking forward to enjoying married life, taking holidays in term time and getting more involved in my village and community."

Chris Spriggs, school business manager, said: "It is going to be strange in September without her. She will be missed by all, we are very sad to see her leave but she deserves to retire and deserves a rest."

Jean Whitehouse also packed away her marking pens and texts books in Oldbury as she retired from Brandhall Primary School after 40 years of service in Sandwell schools.

The 62-year-old year three teacher started at the school in 1972 and over the years says she taught over 1,200 pupils. Headteacher Elaine Fitzgerald said: "We would like to thank Mrs Whitehouse for her long and dedicated service. She will be missed."

Mrs Whitehouse, from Kingswinford, said: "We have a chalet on the beach in Somerset so will be going there for six weeks."

Pat Woods-Talbot also waved good-



Retiring - Maggie Brookes, aged 58



Jean Whitehouse with Brandhall pupils



Pat Woods-Talbot, retiring after 27 years, with pupil Darcey Willis, aged seven

bye to the classroom at the end of term, retiring after 27 years at Springfield Primary School in Rowley Regis.

She was described by headteacher Sue Powis as the 'life and soul of the school'. "She has seen the school grow and move forward and she has given total dedication to the children," added Mrs Powis. Mrs Woods-Talbot, aged 59 and who lives Rowley Regis,

said: "It was very hard saying goodbye after 27 years."

"They bought me a garden full of flowers and a cake shop full of chocolate. I also have had a charm bracelet to remind me of the children."

Mrs Woods-Talbot will be spending her retirement with her grandchildren in London and also plans to enjoy her singing and dancing hobbies.

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Ukulele lady entertains the group

Penn TG

MRS McInnes welcomed everyone to the last meeting and introduced the speaker Gabriella, known as the 'Ukulele Lady'.

She immediately set the scene with the "Telephone Song" from around 1923, and followed with "You are my Sunshine". Gabriella had several ukuleles, all different in size and all with different sounds.

Ukuleles originated in Portugal and workers from there went to work in Hawaii in 1879 cutting sugar cane and they took their instruments with them.

Hawaiians started playing ukuleles, swaying and wearing grass skirts and flowers as they danced.

Gabriella skilfully involved the audience in her stories and it was a wonderfully funny evening.

The Gardening Group visited the Dower House at Morville. It was a delightful garden and coffee and home-made shortcake was served in the house.

A group of ladies from St Bart's Church, Penn formed a band and entertained the Social Studies group.

The Guild had chosen a few songs and the band supplied the others as members sang along to some old popular tunes. Strawberries and cream were served in the break and everyone had a very enjoyable evening.

On September 10, Andrew Lound will speak about 'Scott of the Antarctic' at an open meeting. Visitors are welcome at a cost of £3. On September 24 Ed Shore's topic will be 'Cycling Across America'.

Members join fun of Alice themed party

Guest has Wisdom of his subject's life

VICE chairman Vera Raybould presided over the July meeting.

The 26 members present were welcomed and there were two visitors from the federation.

The meeting progressed as usual with the reading and signing of the previous month's minutes also the treasurer's report.

Mrs Raybould was the group's representative at the National AGM. She gave an excellent report of the items discussed and voted upon and also of the venue itself.

Tickets for the Federation Lunch at the Mill Hotel were distributed.

Social secretary Mrs Writtle gave final information regarding the visit and afternoon tea at David Austin Roses. The names were taken of those wishing to visit 'The Lodge'.

Quarry Bank E TWG

Wellington Road, Dudley, on November 12.

The speaker for this evening was Mike Sampson and his topic was 'The life and career of Norman Wisdom'.

He certainly knew his subject, from the days of poverty and hardship, through time spent in the navy and army to the time of success and the meeting with such illustrious show-business stars as Marilyn Monroe, Laurel and Hardy and Charlie Chaplin.

Mr Sampson was thanked for a very interesting talk about an entertainer who gave so much pleasure.

Next month, August 19, the speaker will be Mary Edwards - her topic 'Four seasons' gardens'.

Wollaston 'E' TWG

THE July meeting took the form of the guild summer tea party with an Alice in Wonderland theme and members were asked, if possible, to wear something appropriate.

Everyone joined in and various characters were represented. Ann Powell's portrayal of the Queen of Hearts was worthy of an Oscar award.

The tea organised by the committee was as usual, a great success, and enjoyed by all. This was followed by Irish Bingo, organised by Betty Collins and Pat Archer. Lesley Wall was the winner.

The Floral Art section had an enjoyable visit to Trentham Gardens, enhanced by the glorious, sunny weather.

Anyone wishing to attend the Federation Harvest Lunch, at Wollaston Village Hall, on Wednesday, October 1 should contact Sue Ward to check on availability.

Chairman Jean Latham wished everyone a happy summer break as there is no meeting in August. The next meeting is at 7.30pm on September 9 at St James Church Hall, Wollaston.

Speaker rose to the occasion

THE club had a wonderful evening on July 25 listening to a talk by Sue Russell on old fashioned roses.

She was a superb speaker, taking everyone through the centuries with the different smelling roses.

This was well attended and everyone agreed it was a worthy meeting. It ended up with "Question Time" which went on for some time and Sue patiently answered

Clent Gardening Club

every question, followed by coffee and biscuits. A plant sale took place as usual.

The chairman suggested that members may like to open up their own gardens during the coming year for viewing by the club.

In Clent Parish Hall on August 22 there will be a practical demonstration on "Pruning" by John Millington.

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Lifesaving Badgers need new generation of recruits

CHILDREN'S first aid groups in the Black Country face an uncertain future due to fewer recruits.

Sandwell and Dudley branches of the St John Ambulance Badger groups need more volunteers when sessions start again in September.

The first aid charity says numbers are getting low and they are looking for more youngsters aged five to 10. The Badgers teach the next generation of first aiders, as the children learn important life saving skills and team work. They also take part in activities such as camping.

Carolyn Zivoder, regional youth co-ordinator for St John Ambulance, said: "Badgers learn the life saving skills which could one day be the difference between a life lost and a life saved. However, becoming a Badger isn't only about learning first aid. It's a great way to make new friends

and, most importantly, have fun in a safe environment. Many St John Ambulance volunteers who start as Badgers stay with us for many years and end up working in the medical profession."

Research carried out by St John Ambulance shows that less than one in seven West Midlands residents know even the basic life saving skills – so teaching children from an early age could make a big difference.

The Dudley group, which only has three regular members, meets on Thursdays at Ollis Hall, Vicar Street. The Sandwell group also meet on Thursdays, at the charity's centre in Roebuck Lane in West Bromwich. Sessions for both start again in September after a summer break.

Contact Carolyn Zivoder on 0121 236 6660 or email carolyn.zivoder@sja.org.uk



Sandwell Badgers Aaron Gough and Charlie Jerrison Eglington with leaders Marie and Neil Evans

Residents to discuss issues at meetings

RESIDENTS will be able to discuss issues and concerns about their estates at a series of meetings taking place across Dudley borough.

Dudley Council has organised the tenants and residents association events which will be held in Dudley, Stourbridge and Brierley Hill.

The first event will be the Corbys Bromley meeting held on August 18 at the senior citizens club, in Brierley Hill, from 6.30pm.

It will be followed by the Parkes Street tenants and residents association meeting at the Limes Social Club, also Brierley Hill, on August 21 at 7.30pm.

New Wrens Nest tenants and residents association will meet at Wrens Nest Community Centre, Dudley, on August 11 at 7pm.

In Stourbridge, the Love Claycroft tenants and residents association will hold a fun day at the Green, in Sadlers Close, from 10am until 1pm.

Anyone who wishes to attend the meetings should telephone (01384) 815168 to ensure the meeting is still taking place, as they may be subject to change.

£10m fund will help more young people work

A £10 million fund will be spent in the Black Country to help turn around the lives of 1,400 deprived young people.

The money from the Big Lottery Fund is being aimed at 18 to 24-year-olds who have been out of work or education for more than a year – as well as carers, ex-drug addicts and young offenders.

Six 'hubs' are to be set up in Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall from September.

The scheme, called Talent Match Black Country, is intended to help them overcome their individual problems that stop them getting into work. It will work with young parents, travelling families, disabled young people and the homeless to get them in touch with employers and help them to develop skills.

There will also be mentoring of each individual young person involved by trained staff including those who have been through similar problems.

The project is being overseen by Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council. Its chief executive Ian Darch said: "Young people themselves will be at the very centre of this and will make up half of the steering group."

"We want to help young people who have been out of employment, education or training for 12 months or more and support them into work. Each young person will be working with a mentor."

Young people will be referred to the scheme through the Job Centre or

Many will not look after elderly parents

ALMOST a third of people in the West Midlands would not look after their ageing parents if they needed full time care, a survey has found.

Charity bosses from Age UK say the figures reflect a worrying trend across the country.

Figures released by the charity showed that 20 per cent of people in the UK thought they lacked the necessary skills to care for their parents. Of the 29 per cent of West Midlands people who said they would not look after their parents full time, half said their house wasn't big enough and 43 per cent said they wouldn't be able to cope.

Jeni Kushton, care manager at Care UK, said: "From our experience, the thought of putting parents in a care home can come with great concern. Often the decision is made at crisis point. This is why we encourage people to discuss the subject of care with their parents before it becomes a necessity."

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A SOCIAL housing group has been recognised for supporting its staff.

Black Country Housing Group, which has offices in Blackheath, has received the Investors in People gold status which recognises highest standards of people management for companies and organisations.

The housing group employs more than 200 people managing a range of housing projects and care services, such as new Bradley hall care home in Kingswinford.

Judges gave the honour after remarking on the ongoing commitment to being an outstanding employer and in creating a great place to work.

Group spokeswoman Carrie Thomas added: "The personal development and wellbeing of our staff is of the utmost importance to BCHG."

Cadets aim to make waves

YOUNG people are being invited to make waves in career aspirations with the Royal Navy by signing up to join a sea cadet group. Sandwell Sea Cadets has 15 members aged from 10 to 18 but organisers have launched a drive to double their numbers.

Administration officer Sam Trevis said she hoped more members will join this summer for the group based in Birmingham Road, Rowley Regis. Call 0121 561 5614.

FOCUS ON BLACKHEATH & ROWLEY REGIS

Bus route upheaval hits passengers after shake-up

BUS passengers are facing upheaval after changes to around a dozen services including Blackheath routes.

National Express West Midlands has revised around 12 services under a shake-up of routes affecting Dudley and Sandwell. Some of the changes result in roads previously served by regular buses being missed out altogether.

The revisions, which came into force last week, have caused anger among some passengers.

By Andrew Turton

Among the changes is the 127 service from Birmingham to Warley and Blackheath. This has been extended into Dudley to replace the 205/205E.

The 205 service will no longer serve Blackheath and now only links Dudley to Russells Hall Hospital and Kingswinford and Wall Heath.

Also among the services affected is the 297/297A to Merry Hill shopping centre, Brierley Hill and Russells Hall Hospital from Hale-sowen, Old Hill and Cradley Heath. Now the service is only from Merry Hill to Gornal Wood via Brierley Hill, Russells Hall Hospital and Pensnett.

One resident, who did not wish to be named, said bus services on Station Road, Old Hill, from its junction with Beauty Bank, and Lodgefield Road, Hale-sowen, to its junction with

Coombs Road, have been axed in the change. They were also concerned that services to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital had been hit.

He said: "This is an almost two-mile stretch of residential area which has been served continuously by buses since at least as long ago as the Second World War. As far as we know the only place where this has been advertised is on the National Express WM website and not everyone, including the elderly have a computer."

National Express West Midlands spokesman Jack Kelly said: "We have worked hard to ensure that residents were given notice of these changes and that they have as small an impact on existing customers as possible. We apologise for any inconvenience."



Celebrating fitness with 91-year-old Josie Rosa, Anne Morgan, 80, Pam Pickup and Julie Waterhouse

Fit group celebrate 80 years

A FITNESS class founded in Blackheath has been helping women stay healthy for 80 years.

Fitness League meets every Thursday at St Margaret's Church, Halesowen, and is attended by 50 members. Many have been attending for decades, including 91-year-old Josie Rosa.

The group said it was 'delighted' to be celebrating the landmark anniversary and believed it to be the longest-running group of its kind. It was launched in 1934 as the Women's League of Health and Beauty by Mrs Hilda Brinton with first sessions taking place at Blackheath Mission Hall.

The current base at the church in Hagley Road is their fourth venue. Over the years there has only been two teachers, Mary Bell from 1934 and Pam Pickup who started in 1967 and is still leading the sessions.

Charity is chosen for store help

FUNDRAISERS at a supermarket have announced their chosen charity for the year. Sainsbury's Blackheath will be supporting the town's branch of the Royal British Legion.

Other causes shortlisted were Midland Air Ambulance, Sandwell Sea Cadets and the Friends of Sandwell Hospital, who receive a donation of £100 each.

Store Manager Denver Martin said: "We've had great response from our customers this year both through in store and online votes. We're delighted to have chosen a charity that is so close to our colleagues' and customers' hearts."

Secretary of Blackheath Royal British Legion Mark Spilsbury said: "We hope that the partnership will further raise our profile in the town and having a notice board in the store to highlight our activities will be a great benefit for us"

New curate at St Paul's

FORMER nurse Kathy Evans is the new curate at St Paul's Church in Blackheath.

The mother-of-two, who trained as a midwife at Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield, was ordained in 2009 and has spent two years studying at St John's Theological College in Nottingham.

She said: "I have learnt a huge amount and met some wonderful people, and I am now where I believe God wants me to be."

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Milestone for revamp as new roof lowered

THIS is the new futuristic-looking atrium roof over a revamped Birmingham shopping centre as construction on the £750 million project passes another milestone.

The new roof was lowered into place above the Pallasades shopping centre as part of a project linked in with a major revamp of Birmingham New Street Station, which is on schedule for completion by next September.

The shopping area is to be transformed into Grand Central Birmingham as part of the project. Among the major retailers at the centre will be John Lewis, which will boast a 250,000 sq ft store.



An artist's view of inside the station



The new roof is lowered into place

Parallel

The next phase of the construction project will see about 6,000 tons of concrete removed to create a space the size of a football pitch under the atrium.

Bosses say more than 95 per cent of the material will be reused on site or recycled.

The finished scheme will attract more than 50 million people a year.

The project is backed by Birmingham City Council, Department for Transport, Network Rail and Centro.

Keith Stone, leasing director for Grand Central, said: "Grand Central is integrated with the modern, redeveloped station which will provide millions of people from across the region with unparalleled access to a range of exciting brands and a premium shopping experience."

Grand Central will offer nearly 500,000 sq ft of shopping and dining space. John Lewis will be the anchor store for the complex.

Lisa Williams, head of branch at



How Birmingham's New Street station could look next September

John Lewis Birmingham, said: "I'm absolutely thrilled to be taking on this new challenge in the UK's second largest city. I look forward to establishing our regional flagship shop in the centre of Birmingham and in the heart of the local community. I can't wait to reveal the shop to our customers during September 2015."

There will be further opportunities

for 60,000 sq ft of retail space. The changes at New Street will result in a bright concourse with better facilities and more than three times more space.

There will be an easier access to platforms with new lifts and escalators as well as improved connections with the Metro line. The work has been done in two phases to allow the railway station to remain open.

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Dudley's £6.7m market place redevelopment

Castle Street and New Street to re-open

Castle Street, New Street and Fisher Street in Dudley town centre will re-open to general traffic this weekend, with buses operating as normal from Sunday 10 August.

Phase one of this exciting project to transform Dudley town centre includes, laying high quality natural stone on roads and pavements, creating new car parking bays in Castle Street, disabled parking, a drop off point for park and ride and a motorcycle bay for three motorcycles as well as new lighting columns, seating and litter bins. The new public toilets also opened in Castle Street in July.

Dudley Council would like to thank shops, businesses, residents and shoppers for their continued patience during this time and hope that people continue to support their town centre.

Work on the market place itself started a few weeks ago and continues to progress well.

To find out more visit <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/business/regeneration/dudleymarketplaceredevelopment>

Follow updates on facebook and twitter at www.dudley.gov.uk, sign up to receive regular updates via email by contacting dudleymarketplace@dudley.gov.uk or call **Dudley Council Plus** on 0300 555 2345.

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Gambling addict stole from late father's stamp collection

First Peak at return of tough guy Tommy



Moody gang leader Tommy Shelby, played by Cillian Murphy, in a picture to promote the next series of *Peaky Blinders*

LOOKING mean and moody, gang leader Tommy Shelby ponders his next move as he expands his criminal empire. This is the first official picture of Cillian Murphy in character in the second series of hit BBC drama *Peaky Blinders*. The series, much of which is filmed at the Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, returns to our screens later this year. Set in Birmingham's gambling underworld in the aftermath of the First World War, the next series also will star Tom Hardy, Helen McCrory and Sam Neill alongside Murphy.

Creator Steven Knight said: "It's getting bigger, it's getting richer and as a result of that it's getting more dangerous. The gang are entering areas of even greater jeopardy." Cillian said: "We reached a point in series one where the *Peaky Blinders*' empire expanded beyond where the family was when Tommy became the de facto leader. Now the next target is London"

Peaky Blinders returns to BBC 2 this autumn.

PCC candidates will be answering questions at event

PEOPLE will get their chance to question the candidates for the post of West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner in a debate organised by Victim Support in Birmingham.

The hustings will be held at 10am on Wednesday, August 13, in the offices of Birmingham Voluntary Service Council at Digbeth.

The election, which takes place following the sudden death of Bob Jones of Wolverhampton last month, will take place on August 21. His deputy, Yvonne Mosquito, has been acting commissioner in the interim.

Brian Senior, divisional manager for Victim Support in the West Midlands, said:

"We know from speaking to hundreds of victims in the West Midlands that issues like anti-social behaviour, assaults and burglary crop up time and time again."

The four candidates are Labour's David Jamieson, a former Plymouth Devonport MP and ex-Solihull councillor; while Conservative former Dudley Council leader Les Jones; barrister and former Birmingham councillor Ayoub Khan for the Liberal Democrats; Edgbaston businessman Keith Rowe will be standing for UKIP.

To book a place email Nicola.biggs@victimsupport.org.uk or telephone 0121 544 4336 today (Thursday).

A STAMP collector's son from Birmingham, who stole part of his late father's rare collection with fruit machines, has been spared jail.

Joseph Jennings, aged 29, was given a two-year community order after a court heard that he raised £13,735 by selling valuable stamps at knock-down prices to unsuspecting dealers.

Mother

Birmingham Crown Court was told that Jennings, the son of nationally-renowned philatelic journalist Peter Jennings, committed the offences between November 2013 and January of this year.

Describing the thefts as 'mean and prolonged', Judge Paul Farrer QC told the gambling addict that he had only

By David Banner

avoided prison because of his guilty plea and because of his mother's desire to see him helped rather than punished.

Jennings, of Bantock Way, Harborne, listened as the judge described Stella Jennings' approach towards her son as 'loving, responsible and generous'.

Accepting that the death of his father had had a significant impact on Jennings, the judge added: "Since 2009 you have suffered from a gambling addiction, which forms the immediate background to the present offences."

"When your father died he left all of his property to your mother and that included a very valuable stamp collection, which the family were plainly proud of."

The stolen items' true value was

undoubtedly much higher, said Judge Farrer, who was told that three-quarters of the stamps stolen from the collection had been traced and returned to Mrs Jennings.

Her son was also ordered to undertake 150 hours of unpaid community work and pay a £60 victim surcharge as part of his sentence.

Grief

Peter Jennings, who died aged 65 in September last year after a long illness, also worked as press secretary for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham.

His son's barrister told the court that 'the grip of devastation and grief' had played a part in the thefts.

Offering mitigation to the court, Iain Suggett said: "My client liked a particular fruit machine."

"That's where the money went, into one machine."

Shoplifter gets supervision and a curfew

A WOMAN who stole CDs and DVDs while subject to a suspended prison sentence has been given a 12-month supervision order. Michelle Willetts, 41, of Reservoir Road, Rowley Regis, had pleaded guilty to two charges of shoplifting at an earlier hearing.

She also admitted production of cannabis, carrying a knife in a public place and failing to comply with a drug testing order.

Willetts was made the subject of a one-month overnight curfew.

Judge Michael Dudley said she had been in custody since May 21 and he did not think it was appropriate to impose a further custodial sentence. He said the 12-month suspended sentence imposed by Warley Magistrates Court

should remain in place.

Miss Joanne Barker, prosecuting, said on April 10 Willetts went to Asda in Darlaston with a man and stole £80 worth of DVDs and CDs but they were stopped by security staff. Police searched her home and found two cannabis plants and hydroponics equipment. She tested positive for cocaine and was ordered to attend a drugs test but was arrested after failing to attend.

On May 20, Willetts and her accomplice were caught stealing DVDs from a Sainsbury's. Police found a kitchen knife in her handbag.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said apart from a conviction in 1990, Willetts had kept out of trouble until 2010.

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Avaricious dirty, Roma? No way



The Colosseum, a magnificent relic of ancient Rome

ROME, the Eternal City, has in recent years been better known as the expensive city, especially after a Black Country family had an expensive experience at an avaricious ice cream parlour.

However, if you're just a little savvy, then there is not reason why you shouldn't let your road lead to Rome for a memorable and not too pricey visit. Here are some handy tips if you are planning a trip to the great imperial city:

No visit to Rome would be complete without a visit to The Colosseum, perhaps Rome's most awe-inspiring ancient monument.

LEON BURAKOWSKI finds all the roads still lead to Rome in his guide to the Eternal City

However, the queues to get inside the 2,000 years old amphitheatre can be huge. A ticket gets you into three attractions — The Palatine Hill and Forum too — so get your three-in-one ticket at the Palatine Hill entrance where the queues are much smaller and, sometimes, there are no queues at all.

Dome

Don't miss The Pantheon. Originally a temple, now a national shrine containing the tombs of Italian monarchs and heroes, it is a huge concrete dome that even by

today's standards is a remarkable feat of architecture. Best of all, it's free admission. The shaft of light through the hole at its summit can be impressive.

The Vatican, a city state within Rome and the centre of the Roman Catholic Church, has one of the greatest collection of art treasures in the world and includes the Sistine Chapel festooned with the sublime Old Testament frescoes by Michelangelo. Don't just turn up on the day at the Vatican Museums, the lines are enormous. Buy your ticket online before you even leave the UK and you will be able to jump the queues. Wear comfortable shoes, the museums and magnificent St Peter's, built on the site of St Peter's Tomb, will take at least six hours to fully explore. However, the cafes in the Vatican are reasonably priced, unlike those in the streets leading up to it.

The Capitoline Museum is a must-see if you love art and/or history with its extensive collection of sculptures including most of the Roman Emperors. Highlights include the monumental head of first Christian emperor Constantine and an colossal statue of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius on horseback which sums up the pomp and power of the empire. Check the concessions available and don't go on a Monday, it's closed. The museum restaurant makes some of the best pizza in Rome.



The Spanish Steps are a romantic hotspot and a top photo opp

Not for the squeamish, the crypt at Santa Maria Della Concezione features the remains of more than 4,000 Capuchin monks, from cloaked skeletons to artfully arranged patterns of human bones. It is both macabre and poignant.

Fountain

Photo opportunity number one is the baroque Trevi Fountain which fills a small square with tourists eager to throw in the coins that guarantee their return to Rome. Nearby, the Spanish Steps with its balustrades and terraces is photo

opportunity number two but you will have to put up with flower sellers urging you to pose with a rose at this romantic hotspot.

You can grab a panini from one of the many small shops. For a sit-down meal, head to the historic Jewish ghetto for a delicious blend of Jewish and Italian cuisine at fair prices or head over the River Tiber to Trastevere district where the sheer number of restaurants keeps prices keen.

The official Roma Pass includes admission to two museums plus various concessions for 36 Euros.



The baroque splendour of the Trevi Fountain



The rooftops of the Eternal City, Rome

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Saturday Night from £139.⁹⁵

Dine and Dance from £149.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). Or the Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Theatre Showstopper from £209.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply for all breaks

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For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Sutton packs his trunks to get cool in the pool

BABY elephant Sutton has really taken to the water since the weather started picking up – so much so he has been bought his own paddling pool.

The three-month-old received the special treat after staff at West Midland Safari Park noticed how much he enjoyed his daily bath.

Now Sutton can enjoy a cool dip or chase a beach ball around any time he pleases, while his mother Five keeps an eye on proceedings.

Angela Potter, deputy director of wildlife at the park, said the new pool was proving a real hit with Sutton, who was named in memory of inspirational Burntwood teenager Stephen Sutton, who lost his battle with cancer just days after the elephant's birth.

She said: "At three months old, Sutton really is proving to be a

real water baby. Once the weather warmed up and we saw how much he enjoyed his bath time, we thought that a paddling pool would be the ideal treat for him.

"Once in place, it wasn't long before he took to it 'like a duck to water', often rolling around until the pool was almost capsized and enjoying every minute."

Sutton was the first elephant to be born at the park, after a 22-month pregnancy and weighed 15st 7lb.

This month he will be able to play for longer than usual as the park has extended its opening hours as part of its Summer Nights season.

More than 4,000 suggestions for names out of 5,000 submitted via social media were for Stephen or Sutton. Stephen, who raised £4.2m for Teenage Cancer Trust, was pictured hugging the baby's mother.



Baby elephant Sutton with mother Five having a splashing time at his home at West Midland Safari Park

Aqua assault course available at centre

YOUNGSTERS can make a splash as a swimming pool hosts a range of activities this summer holiday.

Staff at Halesowen Leisure Centre have organised a range of themed events over the coming weeks.

Anyone aged eight and over can test their balancing, clambering and climbing skills on the Mission Impossible-style aqua run. Children can race each other across the course every Tuesday and Thursday from 1.30pm to 3pm. Restrictions on height and swimming ability apply.

For those who like a more relaxed swim, each Monday and Friday from 1.30 to 3pm they can enjoy giant play mats placed in the pool.

Both sessions cost £3.80 for adults and £2.40 for children aged 15 and under with a 50 per cent discount for those with an Options+ leisure discount card. Councillor Rachel Harris said: "Why not have a family challenge to see who can make it from one end of the Mission Impossible aqua run to the other. Or you can take it easy and come along to one of our play mat sessions."

Call the leisure centre on (01384) 812800 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport

PCSO jailed after data supplied to drug dealer

A PCSO who downloaded confidential information from the police database that was then passed on to a drug dealer has been locked up for two years.

Andrew Thompson would smuggle logs and reports out of West Bromwich Police Station in brown envelopes and rolled-up newspapers. The 43-year-old from Tipton would then pass the information on to Barry and Marie Parkes.

who sold it to drug dealer
Brian Baker

Stafford Crown Court heard how 58-year-old Baker, formerly of Royal Oak Road, Rowley Regis, and Barry Parkes, 59, had been friends since childhood and Baker would request specific information to further his criminal activities.

Marie Parkes, 52, would text Police Community Support Officer Thompson saying what information was required, and he would abuse his position to access the computer system. It continued from September 2012 until all four were arrested in October 2013.

The court was told while the married couple of Weston Drive, Tipton, were paid by Baker. Thompson had not received money for his role and his motives were unclear. Mr Darren Whitehead, prosecuting, said there was evidence of a relationship between Thompson and Marie Parkes.

Thompson had made searches on 40 individual people and made 45 unlawful searches of the database. He printed off 200 intelligence logs and smuggled them out of the station. Two pages of logs had been dis-

Social clubs help to cope with dementia

A CHARITY that aims to improve the quality of life of people with dementia and their family carers in Sandwell is inviting people to join their social clubs.

Better Understanding of Dementia for Sandwell (BUDS) runs weekly clubs offering people which offer people with dementia the chance to socialise, receive support, and take part in a variety of creative activities.

The club's also serve as an opportunity for family members to take a break from their roles as carers

The sessions, which are run by BUDS staff and volunteers, also involve a cooked meal.

Weekly clubs take place in West Bromwich, Smethwick, Great Barr, Rowley Regis, Tipton and Wednesbury the chance to socialise and receive support.

For further details contact 0121 5653721 or email info@buds.co.uk

By Heather Large

covered by officers at an address last September, which sparked the investigation.

Mr Whitehead said: "Thompson joined West Midlands Police in 2009 as a PCSO and his training was no different to that of a regular police officer, including operation of the computer system."

The court heard Barry Parkes was paid around £400.

Thompson, who pleaded guilty to a charge of misconduct in a public office at a previous hearing, was sentenced to 24 months imprisonment.

Baker admitted conspiracy to commit misconduct in a public office and was sentenced to 32 months imprisonment consecutive to a separate drugs sentence he is serving at HMP Dovegate.

Barry Parkes was found guilty of conspiracy to commit a misconduct in public office by jury and was sentenced to 27 months imprisonment. His wife, found guilty of the same charge, was given a 24 month prison sentence suspended for two years.

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There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or Dine and Dance.

The Saturday Night Theatre break, from £139.95, includes a ticket for the evening show whereas the Dine and Dance option starts from £149.95, and includes an evening meal with an after-dinner disco. The ticket for this break is for the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer-London four-star hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*From price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure/web page for details.

Single room supplements apply.

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Two days departing November 14



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Set in the magical surroundings of mechanical organs and fairground carousels the Thursford Christmas Spectacular is the largest Christmas show in the country.

From just an organist and eight dancers in an old farm shed, it has grown since 1977 to become a festive phenomenon.

With an audience of over a hundred thousand and a budget of millions, tickets sell out months in advance. TV celebrities turn up in secret and Prince William has even been four times!



The three-hour performance delivers an extravaganza of non-stop music, singing, dancing, humour and variety and includes a cast of 130 professional entertainers, many who have performed in the West End.

A visit to Cambridge is also on the itinerary during this Norfolk break which is famous for its colleges, and especially King's College Chapel, with the world's largest fan vault and a priceless Rubens over the altar.

Maybe take a walk and enjoy the scenery or find time to visit the Fitzwilliam Museum (entrance payable locally) which holds collections of art and antiquities.

INFO

- Return coach travel
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Midge and Kiki in feast of the arts

SINGERS Midge Ure and Kiki Dee, broadcaster Joan Bakewell, actress Judy Cornwell and former Labour minister Chris Mullin form part of a varied bill as this year's Bewdley Festival celebrates its 27th year.

It will bring a feast of the arts to the Worcestershire town for 10 days in October. Ultravox and Band Aid star Midge Ure opens the festival on October 10, his 61st birthday.

The line-up also includes comedian Hal Cruttenden, jazz star Courtney Pine, actress Jo Enright, pianist Andrei Gavrilov, historian Max Keen and a festival finale from The Overtures.

See www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk with tickets also available on 01905 611427 or from Bewdley Tourist Information Centre.

Real Estate sounds like good investment

BROOKLYN-BASED rock quintet Real Estate will be in concert at Digbeth venue The Institute on October 24.

The band originally from New Jersey have made one of best rock albums of the year so far with their Chicago-recorded Atlas, a slow burning sleeper hit of an album that is likely to be on many hipster summer playlists.

The Birmingham date (tickets £14.50) follows their appearance at The Green Man Festival in Wales this month and the release of new single Had To Hear coupled with their cover of The Nervies' Paper Dolls.

1970s musical is all set to be a real Blockbuster in Brum

California sunshine Creation

AMERICAN duo The Pierces are coming to Birmingham's Glee Club next month as part of a ten city UK tour to support their new album Creation.

It is the follow-up to sisters Allison and Catherine Pierce's 2011 breakthrough album, You & I, when the Alabama-born siblings also played the club venue in The Arcadian Centre.

Glorious

That album yielded radio favourites You'll Be Mine, Glorious and It Will Not Be Forgotten. It also won the girls a support slot to Coldplay.

Now resident in California, Creation reflects the duo's West Coast sun-drenched location while retaining the breezy, melodious charm of their previous folk/pop work, and includes single Kings.

Creation is out on September 1 and The Pierces play the Glee on September 24. Tickets £16.



The Pierces — sisters Catherine, left, and Allison

FROM Sweet to Suzi Quatro, chart hits from the 1970s and 80s will feature in a new family musical arriving in Birmingham next month.

The cast of Blockbuster The Musical includes 70s pop star and TV sit-com actor Paul Nicholas along with former Hear'Say and Emmerdale star Suzanne Shaw.

The show is staged at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham from September 23 to 27.

Paul Nicholas will play Crazy Max in the musical featuring the hits of the songwriting team Nicky Chinn and Mike Chapman.

Blockbuster The Musical begins in the modern era with Mickey Block, a young busker, singing in London's Soho. But when he crashes a car without insurance he is pursued by a loan shark and has to take refuge in Crazy Max's Retro Record shop.

Mystical Max tells him he can turn his life around if he performs two selfless deeds within seven days — and then finds himself transported back in time to London in 1975.

Friends

Paul Nicholas became a household favourite with his role as Vince in the award-winning BBC TV series Just Good Friends. His theatrical success began in 1969 in the original London production of Hair. This was followed by leading roles in Jesus Christ Superstar, Grease, Cats, Blondel and Charlie Girl.

He also appeared as the Pirate King in a highly successful production of The Pirates of Penzance and starred in the first ever national tour of Barnum.

In more recent years he has had a successful career as a theatre producer.

He said: "I am hoping it will be an entertaining family show."

"People can bring their children and also be reminded of the great songs from the 70s."

Suzanne is best known for winning the ITV show Popstars The Rivals and being in Hear'Say from 2001 to 2003.

She has since carved out a career in the



Paul Nicholas and Suzanne Shaw star in a musical

West End, appearing in Chicago and The Rocky Horror Picture Show as well as becoming a regular on TB screens playing Eve Jensen in Emmerdale.

The book of the musical has been penned by David Soames, who co-wrote the musical Time for Cliff Richard which ran for two years in the West End.

The huge number of hits featured in the show will include chart-toppers by Sweet, Suzi Quatro, Smokie, Tina Turner and Mud, including Ballroom Blitz, Blockbuster, Teenager Rampage, Little Willy, Tiger Feet, Devil Gate Drive, Can The Can, Some Girls, Lay Back in the Arms of Someone, Living Next Door To Alice, Better Be Good to Me and Mickey.

Asia putting back gig by 48 hours

ROCK band Asia have changed their date for a Black Country gig.

The British band had been due to play Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall on October 30 but this has been moved by 48 hours to November 1. Promoters said the change was due to the band having media commitments.

The British supergroup's 1982 debut album was the biggest selling album in America that year. The band reunited in 2006 and the latest four man line up includes John Wetton guitar and vocals, Carl Palmer drums, Geoff Downes keyboards and new guitarist Bromsgrove-born Sam Coulson, stepping into Steve Howe's shoes. They have a new album out entitled Gravitas.

War and fairy tale themes at ballet

CLASSIC ballets will be part of Birmingham Royal Ballet's autumn programme at its home theatre, Birmingham Hippodrome.

From September 30 to October 4, the timeless fairy tale Beauty and the Beast will return to the repertoire for magical performances choreographed by company director David Bintley.

The Shadows of War will follow from October 8 to 11, including Kenneth MacMillan's La Fin du jour, Bintley's Flowers of the Forest and Gillian Lynne's reworking of Robert Helpmann's groundbreaking 1940s work Miracle in the Gorbals.

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CHOICE



Sarah Harding

Tumble (BBC1, 6.30pm)
Alex Jones hosts this celebrity contest in which famous faces perform gymnastics and circus skills for a judging panel including world-renowned Olympic gymnast Nadia Comaneci and Team GB medallist Louis Smith. Braving the tough training - and the tight spandex costumes - are world super-middleweight boxing champion Carl Froch, singers Amelle Berrabah and Sarah Harding, EastEnders actor John Partridge, former Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan, Steps singer Ian "H" Watkins, one-time Dynasty actress Emma Samms, Wolfblood star Bobby Lockwood, Loose Women anchor Andrea McLean and former TOWIE star Lucy Mecklenburgh. They begin with either an acrobatic floor routine or by performing on the aerial hoop, and there is an extra treat as judge Louis Smith leads a performance with his London 2012 team-mates.

8.00 The National Lottery: Break the Safe. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three pairs compete to play for a cash prize.

8.50 Casualty. A face from the past jeopardises Rita's future, while Lofly and Cal manage to reunite a family struggling to cope with their autistic son thanks to some creative thinking. Returning after a four-week break.

9.40 Mrs Brown's Boys. Rory and Dino have a bust-up. Mark and Betty announce they are leaving for Australia right away and a phone call causes the Brown children to suspect one of them may be adopted. (R)

10.10 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Michael McIntyre's Showtime. Stand-up comedy performed at the O2 in London during his 10-night run in 2012. (R)

11.30 The Football League Show. 12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.55 BBC News.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Great British Bake Off. (R) 12.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 2.00 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Warrington Wolves v Leeds Rhinos (Kick-off 2.30pm). 4.30 Final Score. 5.20 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 5.40 Pointless Celebrities.

6.30 Tumble. New series. Alex Jones hosts this celebrity contest in which famous faces perform gymnastics and circus skills for a judging panel including world-renowned Olympic gymnast Nadia Comaneci and Team GB medallist Louis Smith. Braving the tough training - and the tight spandex costumes - are world super-middleweight boxing champion Carl Froch, singers Amelle Berrabah and Sarah Harding, EastEnders actor John Partridge, former Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan, Steps singer Ian "H" Watkins, one-time Dynasty actress Emma Samms, Wolfblood star Bobby Lockwood, Loose Women anchor Andrea McLean and former TOWIE star Lucy Mecklenburgh. They begin with either an acrobatic floor routine or by performing on the aerial hoop, and there is an extra treat as judge Louis Smith leads a performance with his London 2012 team-mates.

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11.30 The Football League Show. 12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.55 BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 Film: The Falcon and the Co-Eds. (1943) 7.30 Film: The Falcon Over Wales. (1944) 8.35 The Living Planet. (R) 9.30 Sweets Made Simple. (R) 10.00 Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) 10.30 Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) 11.00 Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) 11.30 Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) 12.00 Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) 12.30 Rick Stein's India. (R) 1.30 John Mills: Talking Pictures. (R) 2.05 Film: We Dive at Dawn. (1943) Adventure, starring John Mills. 3.40 Fog It! (R) 4.00 Natural World: A Bear with a Bounty. (R) 5.00 Live Cycling.

6.00 Great War Diaries. A second batch of dramatic reconstructions based on the letters and journals people whose lives were affected by the First World War. A young Cossack girl experiences a gas attack on the Russian front; an Austrian soldier despairs as he is transported to Siberia; and a Scottish volunteer nurse desperately tries to help the survivors of the genocide in Armenia. A traumatised Italian-American believes he is possessed by the Holy Spirit; a British officer has to act as tour guide for an MP; a German soldier witnesses the horrors of the Somme and a schoolgirl is drawn into a brief romance with a young airman.

7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. Fern Britton goes up against her husband Phil Vickery in the heirloom-hunting challenge, with expert advice from Mark Stacey and James Braxton. (R)

8.00 Dad's Army. A daring bid to rescue Walker and Godfrey from a stricken pumping station ends with Mainwaring and his whole platoon trapped and facing the prospect of drowning. (R)

8.30 Proms Extra 2014. Katie Derham is joined by opera star Willard White, who performs in the studio.

9.15 Melvyn Bragg's Radical Lives. Part two of two. The broadcaster examines the life of 18th-century English radical Thomas Paine, whose works inspired the American and French revolutions.

10.15 QI XL. Extended edition. (R)

11.00 Film: Seraphim Falls. (2006) Western thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan and Anjelica Huston.

12.45 Film: Mother's Boys. (1994) 2.15 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Pat & Stan. 6.10 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.20 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Canimals. (R) 6.55 Canimals. (R) 7.05 Sooty. (R) 7.15 NERDS & Monsters. (R) 7.25 NERDS & Monsters. (R) 7.40 Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.55 Chowder. (R) 8.10 Chowder. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 The Hungry Salloos. (R) 10.25 Film: Murder, She Wrote: The Last Free Man. (2001) 12.15 ITV News; Weather. 12.20 Storage Hoarders. (R) 1.20 The Unforgettable Ernie Wise. (R) 2.20 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 3.25 All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) 4.25 Film: Housewife. (1992) Romantic comedy, starring Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn.

6.20 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.30 ITV News: Weather.

6.45 The Guide to You've Been Framed! Comedian Harry Hill presents a compilation of viewer-submitted comical clips, including a dog on a slide, a cat trying to take part in a game of table tennis, and an elderly woman falling foul of a micro-scooter. (R)

7.45 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Impressionist and comedian Jon Culshaw, TV and radio presenter Jenni Falconer and former Dancing on Ice judge Jason Gardiner take turns on the arcade-style token-pushing machine. Dropping counters down a choice of four chutes, the celebrity contestants hope to knock piles of them off a moving shelf - and the more they collect, the better their chances of scooping the £20,000 prize for a charity of their choice. Game show, hosted by Ben Shepherd.

8.45 All Star Family Fortunes. Casualty's Patrick Robinson and Big Brother's Bit on the Side host Ryan Clark team up with their families to win money for charity. Vernon Kay presents the game show. (R)

9.45 Film: Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope. (1977) Farm boy Luke Skywalker sets out to rescue a princess from the clutches of evil Darth Vader. George Lucas's sci-fi adventure, starring Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher. Continues after the News.

10.40 ITV News: Weather.

10.55 Film: Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope. (1977) Concluded.

12.30 The Cube. (R) 1.20 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Trans World Sport. 7.00 Army Road Races. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.55 Frasier. (R) 10.25 Frasier. (R) 10.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.20 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.45 The Simpsons. (R) 12.10 The Simpsons. (R) 12.40 Speed with Guy Martin. (R) 1.40 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot, Haydock Park and Newmarket.

4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Businessman Ken Brown hosts the final dinner party in Co Durham and Weirsaid, and provides his guests with some unique entertainment before the winner is announced. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.05 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year. George Clarke presents the Normal and Pub Shed categories, featuring a Dad's Army-themed creation and a 1970s amusement park, before choosing the overall winner. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows interior designer Kathryn Tyler as she tries to create a Scandinavian-style eco house in her mother's back garden in Falmouth, Cornwall. The plan is ambitious, featuring a white-painted brick ground floor, a lightweight timber-frame first floor and cleverly designed spaces, but the small size of the plot and Kathryn's inexperience could hamper the project. (R)

9.00 Film: Immortals. (2011) Premiere. A power-mad ancient Greek king raises an army with the intention of not only conquering the known world, but using a mystical weapon to unleash the legendary titans and overthrow the gods. The immortal deities are unable to interfere directly, so select a mortal man to be their champion and defeat the tyrant. Mythological adventure, starring Henry Cavill and Mickey Rourke.

11.10 Film: Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. (2008) A Victorian barber obsessed with revenge takes to murdering his clients. Tim Burton's adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's musical horror, starring Johnny Depp.

1.15 The Last Leg. (R) 2.00 Utopia. (R) 2.55 Homeland. (R) 4.00 Hollyoaks.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Access. 10.10 The Doctor Who. (R) 10.40 Police Interceptors. (R) 11.40 Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) 12.40 Film: Rocky IV. (1985) Boxing drama, starring Sylvester Stallone. 2.30 Film: Any Which Way You Can. (1980) Comedy sequel, starring Clint Eastwood. 4.40 Film: The Sea Wolves. (1980) Second World War adventure, with Gregory Peck.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India. Mark Nicholas presents action from the third day of the Fourth Test at Old Trafford as the five-match series continued. England boast an excellent recent record here in this format, having won six and drawn two of their last eight Tests, including a stalemate against Australia in their last match at this venue 12 months ago. Commentary and analysis by Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan, Sunil Gavaskar and Simon Hughes.

8.00 World's Worst Stars. Documentary featuring footage of some of the world's most extreme weather captured by those who survived it. In Indianapolis, freak winds cause a 32-ton stage to collapse on top of spectators. Hurricane Sandy strikes a small coastal town in New York and a tornado tears a peaceful Illinois neighbourhood to pieces. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Big Brother. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house. Including another chance to see last night's eviction, revealing the latest unlucky housemate who was given just 30 seconds to say their goodbyes, and how their departure has affected the others.

10.00 Dangerous Dog Owners & Proud. People whose dogs are either illegal, trained to be dangerous, or both, including a man who can make his red-nosed pit bull behave aggressively with a simple command. (R)

11.05 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Ryan Clark, Iain Lee and Luisa Zissman analyse the housemates' behaviour as they enter their last week, with input from psychologists and body-language experts. Last in the series.

12.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Big Brother. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Doctor Who: The Day of the Doctor 8.20 Top Gear 8.55 Russell Howard's Good News 9.35 Film: Old School (2003) 11.05 Family Guy 2.00 People Just Do Nothing 3.00 Sexy Beasts 3.30 Russell Howard's Good News 4.00 Close

BBC Four
7.00 Sounds of the 70s 2 Rock - The Boys Are Back in Town 7.30 Eisteddfod 2014 8.00 Human Planet 8.00 Inspector Montalbano 10.45 Robert Plant @ Glastonbury 12.00 Robert Plant: By Myself 1.00 Guitar Heroes at the BBC 2.00 Human Planet 3.00 Pop! The Science of Bubbles 4.00 Close

ITV2
11.35 Take Me Out 12.45 Film: Small Soldiers (1998) 2.55 Film: Scooby-Doo! (2002) 4.40 You've Been Framed! 5.40 You've Been Framed Extreme! 6.45 Film: Back to the Future (1985) 9.00 Film: The Holiday (2006) 11.45 Film: Billy Madison (1995) 1.35 The Magulaf Weekender 2.25 The Funniest Moments 2.50 Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.45 The Railway Children 2.50 A Touch of Frost 7.00 Lewis 9.00 Foyle's War 11.00 Bomb Girls 12.00 A Touch of Frost 1.55 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4
11.30 The Cycle Show 12.30 Alias Smith and Jones 1.40 British Touring Car Championship Highlights 3.15 British Superbike Championship Highlights 4.15 Storage Wars 5.15 Live Pre-Season Football. Tottenham Hotspur v Schalke 04 (Kick-off 5.30pm). 7.30 Film: Thunderball (1965) 10.10 Film: Ocean's Eleven (2001) 12.30 Homebrew 2.35 World of Sport: TV Firsts 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping 3.30 The Store 4.30 Teleshopping

E4
11.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 12.30 The Big Bang Theory 1.30 How I Met Your Mother 2.30 The Big Bang Theory 3.30 Melissa & Joey 4.30 Film: Lemmy Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) 6.35 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: Twilight (2008) 10.30 The 100 11.30 The Big Bang Theory 12.30 Virtually Famous 1.20 How I Met Your Mother 2.40 Bob's Burgers 3.00 Rules of Engagement 3.25 The Mindy Project 4.15 Desperate Housewives

Film4
11.00 On the Fiddle (1961) 1.00 New in Town (2009) 2.50 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) 4.50 August Rush (2007) 7.00 The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) 9.00 Devil (2010) 10.35 Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) 12.20 Punch-Drunk Love (2003) 2.10 Snake in the Eagle's Shadow (1978)



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CHOICE



Maxine Peake

The Village (BBC1, 9pm)

The epic drama charting the life and times of Peak District villagers moves into the 1920s, where the arrival of the jazz age has radically changed old perceptions of love, sex and politics. Life is good for the Allingham in the big house, who are throwing a weekend party, and as part of their entertainment Bert takes part in a race – only to be accused of cheating. His father John is now a dairy farmer, but is struggling to pay the rent on his barn. However, Bert comes up with a money-making plan when boxer Ghana Jones, who has been barred from fighting professionally because of the colour of his skin, offers all-comers a chance to take him on. Tom Varey joins the cast as the 21-year-old Bert, with Maxine Peake and John Simm.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.00** Live Cycling. The Ride-London-Surrey Classic. **6.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the experts return to Hampton Court Castle in Herefordshire, where items up for sale reveal a collection of silver dish given to former prime minister Neville Chamberlain, a set of drinking urns shaped as Herefordshire bulls, and a collection of SAS medals. (R)

8.00 **Countryfile: Summer Special.** Summer special in which the team celebrates the best in rural Britain at the Cotswold County Show in Cirencester. Ellie Harrison tries her hand at archery, Adam Henson invites city dwellers for a taste of life on the farm and Matt Baker discovers how 100 years ago the showground played host to soldiers rather than summer revellers. John Craven cooks up a seasonal feast with 2011 Celebrity MasterChef winner Phil Vickery, poet Ian McMillan and cartoonist Tony Husband capture an artistic view of the day and John Hammond explains the science of the summer weather.

9.00 **The Village.** New series. The drama set in a Peak District village moves into the 1920s. John is now a dairy farmer but is struggling with his rent, so son Bert takes to the boxing ring.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News. **10.25** **MOTD: Community Shield Highlights.** Jason Mohammad introduces action from the Community Shield at Wembley Stadium, as Arsenal and Manchester City clashed for the silver serviette of the season.

11.10 **Live at the Apollo.** Alan Carr hosts the stand-up show at London's Hammersmith Apollo, introducing routines by comedians Andy Osho and Patrick Kielty. (R)

11.40 **Film: Annapolis.** (2006) A trainee cadet at a naval academy clashes with a senior officer and ends up having to fight him in a boxing match. Drama, starring James Franco and Donnie Wahlberg.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Countryfile. (R) **7.00** Alan Titchmarsh's Garden Secrets. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Rick Stein's India. (R) **12.50** **Film: Firecracker.** (1968) Western, starring James Stewart. **2.30** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Castleford Tigers v Widnes Vikings (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Flog It! (R)

6.00 **Celebrity Antiques Road Trip.** Janice Long takes on her Radio 2 colleague Ken Bruce as they embark on a road trip around Oxfordshire with experts Christina Trevanion and Paul Laidlaw, searching for antiques that will sell at auction for a profit. Along the way, Ken indulges his passion for buses. (R)

7.00 **Tropic of Capricorn.** Simon Reeve continues his quest to trace the southern tropic, travelling from South Africa to Madagascar. In Zimbabwe, the presenter comes face to face with the harsh realities of the refugee crisis, and witnesses a unique method of land-mine disposal in Mozambique. Heading to the Madagascan Islands, he discovers an unusual local delicacy, and visits a town where the poor make a living by digging for sapphires. (R)

8.00 **Dragons' Den.** Business ideas pitched include a product that uses nano-suction technology, gourmet marshmallow treats, an alarmed LED walking stick and a cycling brand for the larger figure.

9.00 **James May's Cars of the People.** New series. The Top Gear presenter examines the social significance of cars in the 20th century, beginning by looking at how dictators kick-started the mobilisation of the masses.

10.00 **Legacy.** A trainee MI6 agent sets out to recruit a Soviet diplomat, but finds evidence of a KGB plot to mount an attack within the UK. Cold War thriller set in 1974, starring Charlie Cox. (R)

11.30 **Film: The Trench.** (1999) British soldiers in the trenches begin to question their leaders' honesty in the build-up to the Battle of the Somme. First World War drama, starring Daniel Craig and Paul Nicholls.

1.05 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.00** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Pat & Stan. **6.25** Dino Dan. **6.50** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.00** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.00** Caterham Motorsport. **7.30** London Triathlon. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** **Film: Step Up 3.** (2010) Dance drama sequel, starring Rick Malambri. **5.35** Deal or No Deal.

6.30 **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Tom's Fantastic Floating Home.** Inventor Tom Lawton works tirelessly to complete his floating home before taking it for a maiden voyage down the river. This time he turns his creative imagination to rest and relaxation by reimagining the sofa as a stargazing seating area, with a lighting bed below deck with a fibre-optic solar jellyfish, and making an inflatable bed out of tennis balls. Last in the series.

8.00 **The Mill.** Eight months have passed and single Esther is in the last stages of pregnancy. Despite a difficult labour, she finally gives birth to a healthy boy and returns to work the following day, but struggles to keep pace. Despite the overwhelming success of the Kersal Moor rally, the Chartist Petition – containing more than a million signatures – is rejected by Parliament. Daniel urges his angry comrades not to resort to physical force, although he fails to show similar restraint toward his wife Susannah when she tells him she wants to return to work.

9.00 **The Great War: The People's Story.** New series. Stars including Daniel Mays, Matthew McElwain and MyAnna Buring bring to life the original diaries, letters and memoirs of men and women caught up in the First World War.

10.00 **ITV News.** Weather. **10.15** **Kids with Cameras: Diary of a Children's Ward.** Documentary in which more than 100 youngsters are each given cameras to record their experiences as patients at Newcastle's Great North Children's Hospital. (R)

11.15 **Premiership Rugby 7s Series.** Highlights of finals night from the Stoop, where the qualifiers from the group stage competed in two pools of four, with the two teams that topped the tables competing in the final.

12.15 **The Store.** **2.15** **Motorsport UK.** **3.10** **British Superbike Championship Highlights.** **4.05** **Britain's Best Bakery.** (R) **4.55** **ITV Nightscreen.** **5.05** **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.00** Caterham Motorsport. **7.30** London Triathlon. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** **Film: Step Up 3.** (2010) Dance drama sequel, starring Rick Malambri. **5.35** Deal or No Deal.

6.30 **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Tom's Fantastic Floating Home.** Inventor Tom Lawton works tirelessly to complete his floating home before taking it for a maiden voyage down the river. This time he turns his creative imagination to rest and relaxation by reimagining the sofa as a stargazing seating area, with a lighting bed below deck with a fibre-optic solar jellyfish, and making an inflatable bed out of tennis balls. Last in the series.

8.00 **The Mill.** Eight months have passed and single Esther is in the last stages of pregnancy. Despite a difficult labour, she finally gives birth to a healthy boy and returns to work the following day, but struggles to keep pace. Despite the overwhelming success of the Kersal Moor rally, the Chartist Petition – containing more than a million signatures – is rejected by Parliament. Daniel urges his angry comrades not to resort to physical force, although he fails to show similar restraint toward his wife Susannah when she tells him she wants to return to work.

9.00 **Child Genius.** It's the final and just six gifted youngsters remain in the battle to be crowned Child Genius. Each of them has chosen a complex specialist subject to be tested on, from particle physics and string theory, to the Battle of Stamford Bridge, with questions devised by leading experts in their chosen field. Last in the series.

10.00 **Film: The Eagle.** (2011) A Roman centurion and his British slave journey into the wilds of Scotland to recover the standard of a lost legion. Action adventure, starring Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell.

12.15 **Film: Red Cliff.** (2008) **2.40** **First Time Farmers.** (R) **3.35** **The Million Pound Drop.** (R) **4.30** **Deal or No Deal.** (R) **5.25** **Gordon Ramsay's Home Cooking.** (R) **5.50** **River Cottage Bites.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Only the Little White Van. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** Lazy Town. (R) **10.00** Access. (R)

10.10 **Police Interceptors.** (R) **11.10** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.10** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.10** **Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol.** (1987) **2.55** **Film: Baby Boom.** (1987) Comedy, starring Diane Keaton. **5.05** **Film: The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep.** (2007) Adventure, starring Alex Etel.

7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v India. Mark Nicholas presents action from day four of the Fourth Test at Old Trafford as the five-match series continued.

7.55 **5 News Weekend.** **8.00** **Caught with Their Fingers in the Till.** Documentary exploring three instances of thieving employees who brought the companies they worked for to their knees. Bookkeeper Janet saddled a trusting community with over £1million of debt by claiming false grants while stealing from the local parish council, while Kirsty spent years earning the trust of her employer while quietly pocketing around £300,000 which she spent on online shopping and her dream wedding. Serial fraudster Stephen advanced out on home improvements and fed his gambling habit, leading to his boss being forced to shut down the business and dismiss 50 staff.

9.00 **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights. **10.00** **Film: Killers.** (2010) A spy puts his life of espionage behind him and settles into domestic bliss, until a contract is placed on his life. Action comedy, with Ashton Kutcher and Katherine Heigl.

12.00 **Shoplifters and Proud.** (R) **1.00** **SuperCasino.** **3.10** **World's Scariest Drivers.** (R) **4.00** **House Doctor.** (R) **4.25** **Make It Big.** (R) **5.15** **Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.40** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** **Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D** **7.10** **Film: Raiders of the Lost Ark** (1981) **9.00** **Our World** **10.00** **Family Guy** **10.45** **Siblings** **11.15** **Cuckoo** **11.45** **American Dad!** **12.30** **Sexy Beasts** **1.00** **Siblings** **1.30** **Cuckoo** **2.00** **Russell Howard's Good News** **2.30** **Impractical Jokers**

BBC Four **7.00** **The Sunday Prom: John Taverer** **Premiere 8.25** **Secret Knowledge: Bolsover Castle with Lucy Worsley** **9.00** **Great Poets in Their Own Words** **10.00** **Edinburgh Extra** **11.00** **The Sky at Night** **11.30** **Horizon** **40 Years on the Moon** **12.30** **Imagine – Rod Stewart: Can't Stop Me Now** **1.55** **Rod Stewart at the BBC** **2.55** **Sings the Great American Songbook** **3.55** **Close**

ITV2 **12.35** **America's Got Talent** **3.20** **You've Been Framed** **3.55** **You've Been Framed!** **Kids Special** **4.55** **Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed** (2004) **6.50** **Film: Back to the Future Part II** (1989) **9.00** **Film: Shaun of the Dead** (2004) **11.00** **Film: State of Play** (2009) **1.25** **The Big Reunion** 2014 **2.20** **You've Been Framed** **2.45** **Teleshopping** **5.45** **ITV Nightscreen**

ITV3 **1.00** **Inspector Morse** **3.25** **Film: Holiday on the Buses** (1973) **5.05** **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** **6.20** **Film: Columbo: Fade in to Murder** (1976) **8.00** **Lewis** **10.00** **Film: The Pianist** (2002) **1.00** **William and Mary** **1.55** **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** **2.50** **ITV3 Nightscreen** **3.15** **Emmerdale**

ITV4 **11.25** **The Car Chasers** **12.30** **Film: The Secret War of Harry Frigg** (1967) **2.45** **Film: Battle of the Bulge** (1965) **6.00** **Storage Wars** **8.00** **Premiership Rugby** **7s Series** **9.00** **Film: Driven to Kill** (2009) **11.00** **Hell on Wheels** **11.55** **Alias Smith and Jones** **1.00** **River Monsters** **2.05** **Richard Bacon's Beer and Pizza Club** **2.40** **Movies Now**

E4 **12.35** **How I Met Your Mother** **1.35** **Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.** **2.35** **Supergirl** **3.00** **The Mindy Project** **3.30** **New Girl** **4.00** **The Big Bang Theory** **5.00** **The 100** **6.00** **Rude(s)h** **Tube** **6.55** **Film: The Wedding Planner** (2001) **9.00** **Made in Chelsea NYC** **10.00** **Almost Royal** **10.35** **The Big Bang Theory** **11.35** **Virtually Famous** **12.25** **Rules of Engagement** **1.20** **Ben Earl: Trick Artist** **2.20** **The Cleveland Show** **3.20** **Hollyoaks**

Film4 **11.00** **Geordie** (1955) **1.00** **The Italian Job** (1969) **3.00** **Aliens in the Attic** (2009) **4.45** **King Solomon's Mines** (1985) **6.40** **Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief** (2010) **9.00** **Colombiana** (2011) **11.05** **Memento** (2000) **1.20** **Away We Go** (2009) **3.15** **Close**

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MONDAY
A Nanny's Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A burglary at the home of a wealthy family results in a death. The nanny fears her troubled brother may be the culprit, but keeps her suspicions from her employers, mounting her own secret investigation to find out who was responsible. Thriller, starring Haylie Duff. (2009)

TUESDAY
A Surrogate's Terror, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A college student agrees to be a surrogate mother for a wealthy couple in return for her tuition fees being paid, only for the prospective parents to die in a car crash. She faces an uncertain future as the grandmother of her unborn child gets custody of it and assumes control over every aspect of her life. Drama, starring Cassie Steele and Mimi Kuzky. (2014)

WEDNESDAY
Sharpay's Fabulous Adventure, BBC2, 12pm
A teenage prima donna is convinced her dreams of fame have come true when she meets a Broadway casting director. She heads for New York expecting to see her name in lights, only to find it is her dog that is going to be a star. Comedy, with Ashley Tisdale. (2011)



Dog Day Afternoon, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY
Biker Boyz, BBC1, 11.35pm
The son of a mechanic killed in a crash is determined to honour his father's memory by becoming a champion motorcycle racer. However, the leader of the underground motorcycle club where his father worked refuses to let him join. Outraged, the young biker assembles his own team and vows to avenge the insult, proving once and for all who the fastest rider really is. Action drama, starring Laurence Fishburne, Derek Luke, Orlando Jones and Lisa Bonet. (2003)

FRIDAY
Dog Day Afternoon, ITV, 10.40pm
A hapless bank robber sees his simple heist turn into a hostage situation and a media circus. Sidney Lumet's fact-based drama, starring Al Pacino. (1975)
The English Patient, BBC2, 11.05pm
The enigmatic, badly burned survivor of a Second World War plane crash is tended by a French-Canadian nurse in a derelict Italian monastery. He tells her the story of his passionate love affair with a married Englishwoman. Oscar-winning romantic drama, starring Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas. (1996)

Looking back at times of capital punishment

Over the years, British movies 10 Rillington Place, Dance with a Stranger and Let Him Have It have addressed the often disturbing subject of innocent and guilty people sentenced to death because of their connection with murder.

Now, half a century since Peter Allen and Gwynne Evans became the last two men to be hanged in Britain, this documentary looks back on people sentenced to death in the UK. Fourteen years before Allen and Evans were executed, Londoner Timothy Evans of Notting Hill was sentenced to death for the murder of his wife Beryl and baby daughter Geraldine. Maureen Westlake, Timothy's sister, is still tortured by the pain of injustice to this day.

For the first time, she speaks about the tragedy of her innocent brother going to the gallows for another man's heinous crime. Serial killer John Christie lived in the basement flat of the Evan's home at 10 Rillington Place. Timothy was in a highly emotional state following the deaths of his

wife and daughter. An impressionable man, he would admit to anything, and made a false statement admitting to both murders after being coerced by the police.

However, after being charged with murder, Timothy retracted his confession and protested his innocence. Maureen, who saw him in prison with her sister Eileen, recalls the meeting: 'And I kept crying. And he said to Eileen 'What does she keep crying for?' and she said, 'You know what she's crying [about] Tim, Beryl and the baby,' and he said, 'I didn't do it, Eileen' He said 'Christie did it.' And the last time I saw him, he did look like a 10-year-old. His face was all pale. Waved and he said, 'cheerio.'

Timothy was eventually granted a Royal Pardon in 1966, 16 years after being executed. Christie's crimes had been uncovered, but Timothy's conviction for murdering his daughter was not expunged, a matter which still plagues Maureen: 'I feel that I have gone as far as I can,' she explains. 'But I think I am going to go to my grave still

thinking that this Government have still not cleared him properly. And I still say it's the Government that killed that murdered Tim. Not killed him. Murdered him.'

The makers of Executed visit prisons where death sentences were carried out until its abolition. Viewers also get a close look at how the condemned would have spent their last days, and the techniques and procedures used by the executioners.

This film also examines the case of 19-year old Derek Bentley. In 1953, he was hanged for the murder of a policeman, despite the fact he did not fire the fatal shot and had a mental age of 11. It was claimed he had uttered the words 'Let him have it' to incite his partner in crime Christopher Craig to shoot.

The show also features a profile of Ruth Ellis, the 28-year-old who was executed in 1955 for the shooting of her lover David Blakely. She became the last woman to be hanged in Britain, and her story was adapted for acclaimed 1985 movie Dance with a Stranger.



Dave Rodham features in Executed, Tuesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Kate Adie's Women of World War One BBC2, 9pm
As a distinguished war reporter, Kate Adie knows a thing or two about being on the frontline. But in this documentary, part of the BBC's ongoing season marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, she's more interested in the women left on the Home Front. She discovers that for many of them, it was a chance to prove they could take on 'men's' jobs, from making shells and driving trams to forming a police force, operating on male patients and playing football in front of tens of thousands of spectators. But while some women experienced their first taste of freedom, it was also a time of bereavement and uncertainty. Adie asks whether the advances of the war continued after 1918, or if peacetime saw women banished back to the kitchen.

TUESDAY
Love Your Garden ITV, 8pm
The team comes to the aid of Luke Simpson, who lost his leg in an explosion on his last tour of duty in Afghanistan. While rebuilding his life and health with the support of his wife Jackie, the war hero has struggled to make progress on the garden of his dreams. As Alan and the crew work their magic,

Frances Tophill reveals the key design elements for a cottage-style plot, Katie Rushworth demonstrates how to make the most out of cut flowers and David Domoney provides hints and tips on maintaining the perfect lawn. Last in the series.

In the Club BBC1, 9pm
With Rick on the run from the police, Diane struggles to accept the reality of what he has done. She turns to Roanna, the only person she feels she can trust, for some much-needed support - but it looks like the stress of the situation may have brought on her labour as she starts to experience pains that feel much more than Braxton Hicks. Jasmin and Dev have a houseguest, Diane's husband Rick, but when the police turn up the newlyweds are shocked to find out what's really going on. Will they cover for him? Teaching assistant Kim is also feeling the pressure in the aftermath of Rosie's dad's accident. When social services get involved her sense of responsibility is tested as she tries to protect the schoolgirl and her baby. Kay Mellor's drama, starring Jill Halfpenny, Will Mellor and Hermione Norris.



Bloomers, Friday, BBC1, 9pm

WEDNESDAY
Secrets from the Clink ITV, 9pm
Part two of two. Strictly Come Dancing judge Len Goodman explores the next chapter in the story of his great-great-grandfather, finding out how years of hard labour took their toll. Actress Michelle Collins is horrified to discover the Dickensian conditions one of her forebears experienced in a debtors' prison after the collapse of his business in tough economic times. Journalist Daisy McAndrew follows the tale of an ancestor who dodged the hangman's noose and was transported to Australia, where her fortunes changed.

THURSDAY
Location, Location, Location Channel 4, 8pm
New series. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer guide prospective

buyers through the complex world of property viewings and agents. They begin in the popular commuter county of Kent, where homes are snapped up quickly due to their proximity to London. Robin and Gemma have recently returned to the UK after three years in Singapore and want a family home to bring up their baby, while in Tunbridge Wells, Gemma and Barney are looking to buy their first place together in a very competitive market.

FRIDAY
Boomers BBC1, 9pm
New series. Comedy following the ups and downs of three newly retired couples living in the Norfolk resort of Thurmemouth. The friends prepare for the funeral of old friend Jean, although Alan seems more interested that her ex-husband, his old friend Mick, is flying over from Spain for the service. John is wary of the visitor, convinced he has had a thing for his wife Maureen ever since a notorious holiday in Weymouth many moons ago. Meanwhile, Joyce is preoccupied with the thought of her daughter-in-law giving birth any day now. Philip Jackson, Alison Steadman, Russ Abbot, Stephanie Beacham, Paula Wilcox and James Smith star, with a guest appearance by Nigel Planer.

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CRADLEY HEATH, Best Street£695 pcm - Fees
Wow what a fantastic family home offering oodles of space! With 4 good size bedrooms, huge through lounge/diner, family bathroom, downstairs WC, carport with driveway, great size kitchen and a large garden, to boot! A long term rental opportunity which will be snapped up! EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, Fairbourne Avenue£675 pcm - Fees
Perfect for a family and close to the M5. A large Mucklow Style detached home which is available now, close to local shops and bus routes. Featuring 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and 1 large single bedroom, 2 good size lounges, large kitchen, downstairs wc, shower room, gas central heating, new windows, huge rear garden, driveway and garage. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Hunnington Crescent£650 pcm - Fees
Recently redecorated and carpeted. This huge 3 bedroom town house has had a full redecoration, carpets and boiler. This house will not stay around for long as its so close to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring 3 bedrooms, a large lounge with stunning views, bathroom with shower, driveway and garage parking, downstairs wc, small low maintenance rear garden. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Coombs Road£595 pcm - Fees
Deceptively large house with modern decoration. An unfurnished 3 bedroom semi detached house featuring a light and airy lounge, fitted kitchen with a dining area, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, driveway parking, (THE GUARANTOR MUST BE A HOME OWNER, FAMILY MEMBER AND WORKING). EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Haden Arch Court£575 pcm - Fees
Contemporary living in Halesowen. This 1st floor spacious apartment above the archway, within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre and buses, the apartment features gas central heating, a large glassy, open plan living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower cubicle, allocated parking. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Bloomfield Street West£575 pcm - Fees
A stunning furnished to suit 2 double bedroom cottage style mid terraced property in close proximity to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen/dining area with appliances, bathroom with shower, private rear garden. On road parking. Not to miss! EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Whitefriars Drive£550 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished mid terraced house in a popular cul-de-sac and close to Halesowen Town Centre. Briefly featuring gas central heating, 1 reception room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, driveway parking. (THE GUARANTOR MUST BE A HOME OWNER, FAMILY MEMBER AND WORKING). EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Mace Street£525 pcm - Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed! This modern home is in a sought after area for Old Hill train station, local shops and bus links. The house features 2 double bedrooms, en-suite bathroom to the master, spacious lounge with patio doors leading to a lovely maintained garden, bathroom with shower and a modern kitchen. EPC: TBC



NETHERTON, Round Street£495 pcm - Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed. Set within a popular residential area, this unfurnished semi detached house comprises of a modern living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower. Benefits also include gas central heating, rear garden, driveway for 2 cars. (THE GUARANTOR MUST BE A HOME OWNER, FAMILY MEMBER AND WORKING). EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Cross Street£495 pcm - Fees
Beautifully presented and very close to Halesowen Town Centre. This lovely ground floor maisonette features 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, dining kitchen, brand new bathroom with shower, private rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars. EPC: E



CRADLEY HEATH, King Street£475 pcm - Fees
Located in the heart of Old Hill. Ideally situated for local shops, buses and train links. A 1st floor modern apartment which comprises of 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, double glazing, electric heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Upper Ashley Street£475 pcm - Fees
Set in a quiet road, is this lovely semi-detached home. Featuring gas central heating, 1 reception room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars, unfurnished. Popular residential street close to Netherton High Street. 2 months deposit and a guarantor is required. (THE GUARANTOR MUST BE A HOME OWNER, FAMILY MEMBER AND WORKING). EPC: D



NETHERTON, Round Street£475 pcm - Fees
Set in a quiet road, is this lovely semi-detached home. Featuring gas central heating, 1 reception room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars, unfurnished. Popular residential street close to Netherton High Street. 2 months deposit and a guarantor is required. (THE GUARANTOR MUST BE A HOME OWNER, FAMILY MEMBER AND WORKING). EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Hingley Court£460 pcm - Fees
Freshly redecorated and in the centre of Old Hill. This lovely ground floor apartment features an open plan lounge/kitchen with a washer/dryer and a small fridge, 2 large double bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, 1 allocated parking space behind electric gates. Not to be missed. Available now. EPC: TBC



WORDSLEY, John Street £450 pcm - Fees
Close to local buses for Kingswinford and Stourbridge and a short walk from Ambicote. This 2 double bedroom terraced house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, on road parking and an enclosed rear garden. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£450 pcm - Fees
An immaculately presented ground floor 1 bedroom flat, within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring an open plan living room/modern fitted kitchen with integrated fridge/freezer and washing machine, bathroom with shower over bath, allocated parking space, unfurnished. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Dudley Road£450 pcm - Fees
Not to miss! A 1 bedroom ground floor flat which has just undergone a full refurbishment. Standing in its own grounds within a detached house with parking for 2 cars this unique property comprises of a lounge with electric fire, fitted kitchen, white bathroom suite with shower & 1 double bedroom, outside rear garden. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Oldbury Road£425 pcm - Fees
Recently refurbished, very generous sized unfurnished flat above shop. Gas central heating, part double glazing, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom with shower, on road parking. Rent includes water rates. EPC: E



CRADLEY HEATH, Archer Gardens£425 pcm - Fees
Set within a quiet complex, close to Cradley Heath town centre and the local train station, is this unfurnished ground floor maisonette, benefiting from gas central heating (Bathroom), electric heating in the lounge and bedrooms, large living room with separate dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, communal gardens and allocated parking. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Pippin Avenue£425 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished, modern, spacious ground floor flat on this popular estate and briefly comprising: open plan living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, full double glazing, parking space. A minimum contract of 12 months is required. EPC: D

Four-bedrooms spread across three storeys



ATTRACTIVE and well presented, 103 Attingham Drive, Sovereign Heights, Dudley, is a spacious four-bedroomed, three-storey home for sale through Roden Boydell at £244,950.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it has a reception hall with staircase off, guest cloakroom, first floor through lounge with an attractive fireplace. From there are French doors leading to a balcony, spacious dining room with French doors to garden, kitchen with modern white units, a double oven with gas hob, fitted extractor hood and fridge freezer. There are a utility, study, four bedrooms (two en suite and all with fitted wardrobes), bathroom, garage and gardens. There is a driveway, carport and detached garage. The rear garden has a patio and lawn. Contact Roden Boydell on 01902 881188 or visit www.rodenboydell.com



This character home has five bedrooms

SUBSTANTIAL five bedroomed detached home, Meadowcroft, 69 Stream Road, Kingswinford, has a delightful setting.

Having mature generous gardens, it is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £465,000.

With a shared drive, this gas central heated home has an entrance porch, entrance hall with feature stairs, guest cloakroom, lounge, dining room with brick fireplace, sitting room with feature fireplace and wooden floor, an L-shaped breakfast room with steps to cellar, kitchen, stainless steel range cooker, a side lobby, WC, passageway linked to annexe, galleried landing, five bedrooms (one en suite) and house bathroom.

Contact Lee Shaw Partnership on 01384 287622 or visit www.leeshaw.com



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- Currently Being Refurbished To A High Standard
- Large Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen And Study
- Five Bedrooms, Ensuite, Family Bathroom
- Viewing Essential

£325,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

DUDLEY,

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- Extended Detached Property Awaiting EPC Rating
- Two Reception Rooms Kitchen Utility Room Downstairs Shower Room W/c
- Four Bedrooms Family Bath/Shower Room W/c
- Black Paved Drive Garage and Garden To The Rear
- Property Internal Viewing Highly Recommended To Appropriate Accommodation

£237,950 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

OLDBURY,

NO CHAIN

- Extended Semi Detached Property Awaiting EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Downstairs Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Drive To Front Garden To The Rear
- Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain

£175,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

OLDBURY,

- Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Two reception Rooms Breakfast Kitchen Ground Floor W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Side Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens
- Property Benefits From Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing

£160,000 offers over QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

QUINTON,

NEW

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Two Reception Rooms Kitchen Utility Area
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Driveway Garage Front Garden Good Size Rear Garden.
- Property Is Located On Service Road Off Stonehouse Lane

£150,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

OLDBURY,

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- Internal Inspection Highly Recommended

£130,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

ROWLEY REGIS,

NEW

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge/Dining Room Kitchen Downstairs W/c
- Three Bedrooms and Bathroom W/c
- Property Benefits From Double Glazing And A Gas Central Heating System
- Gardens To The Front and Rear

£129,950 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

OLDBURY,

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing
- Front and Rear Gardens

£120,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

WOODGATE,

- End Of Terrace Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing
- Driveway To The Front Large Garden To The Rear

Offers Over £115,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

BARTLEY GREEN,

NEW

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Kitchen Downstairs Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom
- Driveway Garage Front and Rear Gardens
- Property Benefits From Having No Upward Chain

£110,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

WOODGATE VALLEY,

NEW

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen/Diner, Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c
- Property Benefits From Double Glazing
- Well Presented Property Internal Viewing Recommended

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QUINTON,

NEW

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating F
- Well Presented Property Benefiting From Double Glazing and Central Heating
- Accommodation Comprising Through Lounge Kitchen Utility Area
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c To The First Floor
- Gardens To The Front and Rear

£99,950 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

OLDBURY,

NO CHAIN

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Property Benefits From Double Glazing And A Gas Central Heating System
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Downstairs Bathroom Two Bedrooms
- Garden To The Rear Of The Property
- Internal Viewing Recommended

£97,500 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

OLDBURY,

- Traditional terraced Property, EPC rating D
- Excellent Condition Throughout
- Two Reception Rooms
- Four Bedrooms And Upstairs Bathroom
- Viewing Highly Recommended

£90,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

OLDBURY,

NO CHAIN

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- Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Communal Gardens Non Allocated Parking Area
- Only Available To Over 55's
- Benefits From Having No Upward Chain

£80,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

OLDBURY,

NO CHAIN

- Spacious Ground Floor Apartment EPC Rating D
- Lounge/Dining Room Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Property Has A Private Rear Garden and Allocated Parking
- Internal Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain

£80,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

ROWLEY REGIS,

NEW

- Ground Floor Flat EPC Rating
- Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Property Benefits From Double Glazing
- Non Allocated Parking Area
- No Upward Chain Viewing Recommended

£65,000 QUINTON ☎ 0121 421 7766

QUINTON,

- End Of terrace Property Awaiting EPC Rating
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Tiger is a winning formula

By John Griffiths

Triumph is not only the maker's name but a word which could well describe the company's all-new Tiger Explorer.

The 'Tiger' is really like a family name more than any indicator that this is a hastily redesigned version of the familiar 1,050cc three-cylinder machine to widen sales opportunities in the expanding adventure market.

In fact it's powered by a brand new 1,215cc unit (three cylinders, of course) which sets the Triumph apart from most rivals in this class simply in terms of power and torque. With 135bhp on tap, the Explorer is knocking on the door of superbike territory.

Powerful

That makes it almost a third more powerful than the biggest seller in this category and the bike which set the benchmark, the BMW GS, whose sales soared after Ewan McGregor and Charlie Boorman rode a pair of them around the world.

The new Explorer is unashamedly designed to steal sales from the German machine, so it's no surprise that Triumph has also produced a high specification which includes heated grips, ABS, adjustable traction control, cruise control and 'fly by wire' throttle as standard.

The new 1,215cc engine, fitted with balancer shafts for smoother running, is something of a gem.

Running at a low 3,000rpm in top (sixth) gear, it can be a lazy man's machine, with just a small movement on the throttle re-

quired to unleash the torque needed for a quick overtake.

Drop a gear and use the revs, and it surges forward like a sports machine. The bike has a sort of Jekyll and Hyde character which will satisfy most types of roads, the rider whatever mood you happen to be in, and whatever the circumstances.

The engine is capable of unleashing a wave of torque which starts at an incredibly low 2,500 revs and continues right up the range. You could ride it quite satisfactorily as a 'top gear' bike but you'd be missing out on the gorgeous growl from the Arrow exhaust at higher revs.

The six-speed gearbox is one of the smoothest, notch-free units I've found on a two wheeler. At first I thought top could have been a bit higher, to aid economy (about 48mpg for me). But in fact at 70mph the rev counter shows just a little over 3,000rpm - it's just that there's so much torque on tap you're deceived into thinking the ratio is lower.

The Explorer, like its rivals, is a tall bike. The standard seat is adjustable, but because of my short legs (so my tailor tells me) Stratstone Triumph of Wolverhampton, who loaned their test machine, supplied the 20mm lower option.

Yet in spite of its obvious height and weight, the Explorer is perfectly balanced so that it doesn't become tiring to ride for long periods over twisty roads, such as the by-roads of Wales. In fact it took a mile or two for my subconscious to adjust to the fact that once in motion it is actually very light and agile; not what I expected at all. It feels altogether like a smaller bike, for example Suzuki's 600 V-Strom, and inspires a lot of confidence. It's great fun, too.

The traction control system (with two

settings) didn't intervene during my miles with the Triumph, but I can see the potential advantage in avoiding spinning up the back wheel on wet roads. Riders of 100bhp-plus bikes will be aware of just how easily that happens: and it's likely to be even more welcome for riders who do venture off-road.

Triumph was able to use traction control and cruise control because of the new throttle system: there's no traditional cable, it's all done by electronics. It doesn't feel much different - just a bit lighter - but it does make throttle response very smooth and consistent.

The riding position is upright, keeping your back straight, which I find so much more comfortable after a few hours in the saddle - the type of ride this machine is designed for. The bars are straight and wide, ideal for fine control and stability.

The screen is easily adjustable through a range of angles. For me the midway position offered plenty of protection from wide blast without causing any buffeting or extra noise around my helmet.

The cruise control and comprehensive trip meter (including a 'miles to empty' feature) are operated by buttons next to the

'The new 1,215cc engine, fitted with balancer shafts for smoother running, is something of a gem'



grips where they can be easily operated with a thumb.

The indicators are self-cancelling, a system which in this case actually works, but if you don't like that you can easily change back to the old manual system.

It's another example of the amount of thought Triumph has put into developing a new machine to take on BMW at its own game.

There are other pointers, too, such as the larger capacity battery and alternator in anticipation of riders not only taking up

the option of heated seats but also heated clothing.

There's a quick headlamp adjustment, too, for when you have a passenger.

Stratstone Triumph say that the Explorer is already winning over customers and I'm not surprised.

The Hinckley-based manufacturer has undoubtedly taken a look at what's best in the adventure market and what riders want, and put a great deal of time and thought into doing something to beat that.

The Triumph costs £11,149 on the road.



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The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: Swift SZ4 available from £12,199. *VAT free offer on Swift range: Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available from £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,699 including customer saving of £2,740 which is equivalent to the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £16,439 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July 2014 to 30th September 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. Swift specifications and prices refer to the 2014 facelift model.





Bluemotion technology now added to VW vans

By John Griffiths

Hard-pressed businesses looking to drive down their costs will no doubt welcome Volkswagen's decision to share its fuel-saving Bluemotion technology with its commercial vehicle range.

The new model is easily the most frugal of the Transporter range, and indeed among the best in this class of van, with an official average consumption of almost 49mpg.

It has the same efficient 2.0 litre turbo diesel engine as its stablemates – in this case rated at 114PS – but the whole vehicle is lighter, more aerodynamic, it's fitted with low rolling resistance tyres, cruise control, and automatic stop/start.

There's also an energy recuperation system which uses the van's momentum under braking to run the alternator, so the engine has less work to do.

It's the first time VW has produced a full-blown Bluemotion model, although others in the range have already benefited from some aspects of the technology which has been such a hit in the company's passenger car range.

The £24,071 (including VAT) short wheelbase model loses nothing in terms of performance compared to its stablemate with the same 114PS engine plus it's still capable of carrying two Euro pallets – and with a greater payload of 871kg.

For the driver the Transporter Bluemotion's cab is a good place to be. It comes with three large, hard-wearing seats – the driver gets height, reach and lumbar adjustment – and a high 'command' driving position with large door mirrors.

The power-assisted steering and other controls are light, with the short-throw gearstick mounted high on the dash for easy reach.

The driver also has the cruise control system to help save fuel (and possibly your licence), a hill-hold assist system, electrically heated and adjustable mirrors, a radio with CD player, electric windows and heat reflective glass.

Airbags

There are plenty of storage compartments in the cab, and a part-lined load bay which helps to reduce body noise and reverberations from the interior.

Safety systems include driver and passenger airbags, stability control, emergency brake assist and brake force distribution systems.

The engine has an impressive 250Nm of torque available from just 1,500 revs, making progress seem easy and, in van terms, relatively lively despite its impressive economy.

It takes 14.8 seconds to reach 62mph from a standing start.

The Transporter has a wide opening, sliding side door on the left (kerb) side which is almost half the length of the cargo bay, and a pair of rear doors, to access the interior, which is 2,570mm long, 1,692mm wide and 1,410mm high.

The load floor is flat for easy loading, and the cargo area has two interior lights.

The test vehicle was fitted with a few options including a touchscreen SatNav system with upgraded radio at a cost of £565 (ex VAT), and Bluetooth connectivity which is a £245 option. Parking sensors added another £200.

So far, the short wheelbase panel van is the only member of the Transporter range to get the full Bluemotion treatment.

Transporters all come with a 2.0 litre turbo diesel engine, but with power ratings of 84, 102, 114, 140 and 180Ps. The panel vans are also available in long wheelbase, plus high and medium roof options.

Other vehicles in the range include the Kombi, for carrying a work crew and their cargo, and the window van capable of carrying up to eight passengers with a choice of configurations.

The Shuttle is a people carrier, again designed for eight passengers but with more style and comfort.

There are also four-wheel drive models fitted with the more powerful engines in the range.

TESTED

VW Transporter Bluemotion SWB

Engine: 2.0 litre turbo diesel with 114Ps of power and 250Nm of torque driving the front wheels through a five-speed manual gearbox.

Performance: 0 to 62mph in 14.8 secs, max 102mph.

Economy: urban 40.9mpg, country 54.3mpg, average 48.7mpg. CO2 emissions 153g/km.

Cargo area: 2,570mm x 1,692mm x 1,410mm. **Payload:** 871kg.

Warranty: Three years/100,000 miles: three years paint, 12 years body protection.

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Pedestrian time a record

Whatever else you might say about Toyota, it seems the brand has a sense of humour.

Driving enthusiasts will hang their (petrol) heads in shame after Toyota completed the 12.9-mile German track Nurburgring at an average of 698mpg.

The embarrassingly pedestrian time of 20 minutes and 59 seconds was set by motor journalist and Japanese car expert Joe Clifford, and since Toyota is the first to shame itself with a fuel economy run at the heart of performance car testing, it automatically sets a new efficiency record.

The 21-minute time is more than three times slower than laps recently set by modified versions of the Seat Leon Cupra 280 and the Renaultsport Megane 275. Clifford was driving a Prius Plug-in hybrid, whose electric-only range is more than enough to complete the circuit without using the petrol engine.

But unfortunately for the attempt, a long ascent on the circuit strained the batteries too much and the engine cut in, using five tablespoons of unleaded.

He said: "We used no special tricks for this test. We simply took a fully charged car, fitted it with low-rolling resistance tyres and drove the lap, among all the other public drivers tak-

ing the opportunity to experience the challenge of the Nurburgring.

"Although the 12.9-mile distance is similar to a typical commuter trip, the difference here is a rise and fall in elevation of around 1,000 feet. In fact, it was only on one long climb that the petrol engine cut in, and then only for a short while.

"Without that, we think we might have even achieved the ultimate 999.9mpg readout – the highest figure the display can show."

The keen-eyed will notice body modifications on the Prius, but Toyota says these are just styling add-ons sourced from the Toyota Racing Development (TRD) catalogue.



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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic 1.6i-OTEC Black Special Edition in mpg (l/100km): Urban 70.6 (4.0), Extra Urban 85.6 (3.3), Combined 78.5 (3.6). CO₂ emissions: 94 g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EEC-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes & may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model Shown: Civic 1.6i-OTEC Black Special Edition in Crystal Black Pearl at £22,460 On The Road (OTR). **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic registered from 1 July 2014 to 30 September 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Civic Black Special Edition Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Example shown based on Civic 1.6i-OTEC Black Special Edition in Crystal Black Pearl at £22,460 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £0 (0%) deposit, £408.29 monthly payment, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £7,761.73 annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 60p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due; the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Honda Finance Europe Plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register number 312541. **The 5 Year Car Package includes:** Servicing: All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary HondaCare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **The 5 Year Car Package:** The 5 Year Car Package is optional. It is being offered for £555 including VAT (usual value £1,845 including VAT, resulting in a £1,290 saving for the customer) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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6 Property

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8**Motoring****cars over £1500**

CITROEN C1, 08 (58), 54k, black, 1 owner, full MoT, tax, (220) 50mpg, excellent condition. £2,800. 01902 336192 or 07592 848225.

CITROEN C1, 2008(58), 54,000 miles, black, one owner, full MoT, tax, excellent condition. £2,800. 01902 336192.

CITROEN C5 SALOON VTR DIESEL. Black, 2003. Immaculate condition. 62,000 genuine miles. Genuine reason for sale. £2,150. Telephone 07770 560000.

FIAT PUNTO SPORTING 1.2, 55 reg, 12 months MoT, one months tax, 74,000 miles, £1,095 ono. 07867 220306.

FORD FIESTA 1.4 Zetec, petrol, 07 reg, 12 months MoT, low mileage, excellent condition, £1,995. 07932 963381.

FORD FREDA (MAZDA BONGO) Diesel, 6 months MoT, 8 seater or 4 berth. Excellent condition. Offers around £3,000. 07966 175576.

**MERCEDES C CLASS**

Diesel coupe, 2005, 06MY, 101,100 miles, blue/black. Mercedes Benz service history, just been serviced. MoT Dec 2014. 6 months tax. Reluctant sale.

£4,250 ono.
 07773 239292.

MERCEDES CLK220 Avantgarde A, Coupe, 06, diesel, silver, tax. MoT, SH, outstanding condition. £3,995. 01746 862992.

MGTF 2002, 1.8 Stepspeed Automatic, silver, 36,000 miles, taxed and MoT'd, £1750 ono. 07803 181611. 01562 887092.

NISSAN NOTE 1.4 N TEC + Tax, 12 months breakdown cover on a 12 plate, top of range with half leather seats, Sat Nav, etc, 14,700 miles, super condition, must be seen. £7,750 ono. Telephone 01902 331155.

IMMACULATE
 01902 419720

PEUGEOT 207 SPORTIAM blue metallic, 2011. 61 plate, 12 months tax. 29,710 miles from new. Bereavement forces reluctant sale. £6,500. 01384 571170.

IMMACULATE
 4X4

RANGE ROVER
FREELANDER TD4S

2001 reg, ex garage mechanic owned, in lovely condition, 117,000 miles, MoT 12 months MoT, some tax, powder coated gold wheels, light guards in gold, stainless steel bull bar and spot lights. £1,500 onno. 07775 517425.

4X4

RENAULT CLIO 1.4, Dynamique S, 2007, black, top of the range, taxed and MoT'd, well maintained. £2,500. 01922 419720.

RENAULT KANGOO Authentique, 2008, 23,524 miles, blue, wheelchair access via ramp, 4 seats. £4,500 ono. 07783 999988.

TOYOTA COROLLA Verso 1.8 Petrol, 06 reg, tax, New MoT, service history, 7 seater, service history. £2,350 ono. 07838 650913.

TOYOTA MR2, 2004, 72,000 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT, £3,250 ono. 07527 00997.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0, 3 door, black, 56 reg, new shape, 85,000 miles, MoT/rax, bargain £2,450. 07850 113680 or 01902 764354.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2006, 21,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, long MoT, 1.4 Tiwpport. £3,295 ono. 01384 271195.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN, 2006, 69,000 miles, silver, fsh, alloys, half leather interior, excellent condition. £3,500 ono. 07874 136334.

VW GOLF 1.9TDI, 54 reg, blue, 5dr, EW, CD, 5-speed, RCL, 2 keys. MoT/rax. PSH. Bargain. £2,200. ono. 01902 655375 / 0783 595440.

VW POLO 1.2, 2006, 3dr, MoT January 2015, 108,000 miles, built in hands free kit, ideal first car, 1,800. 07708 030163.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
 that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN PICASSO EXCLUSIVE 2.0 HDI, 2002, 135,000 miles, silver, tax and MoT, very good condition. £995 ono. 01384 869696.

CITROEN SAXO DESIRE 2003, hatchback, EW, PAS, tax Aug, MoT Apr, 136,000 miles. £450 ono. 07788 287476 / 01384 873027.

DAEWOO NUBIRA Est 1.6 V reg, 2000, tax, 12 months MoT, 51K, immaculate, very reliable. £550. o.n.o. Must see. 01922 512935.

FIAT MULTIPLA, 2000, 100,000 miles, green, electric windows, long MoT, tax, 6 seats. £700 ono. 07960 285160.

FIAT SEICENTO Suite, V Reg., 59,000 miles, March MoT, tax Nov. £450. 0121 557 3281.

FORD FIESTA 1.3 Mk5, 51 reg, 12 months MoT, clean car, £525 ono. 07903 23347.

FORD FOCUS ZETEC 2003, 5-dr hatch, 1600cc, blue, EW and locking, long MoT, taxed, 60k miles approx, service history and old MoT's, blue, good for year. £1,250.

01902 618380. 07736 740383.
FORD KA 1.3 03, black, MoT Apr 15, long tax, 90,000 miles, excellent condition. £700 ono 07813 932880.

FORD KA, 2002, tax, MoT, 62k, very clean car, £450. Telephone 07778 294979.

FORD KA, hatchback, 2004, 31,800 miles, blue, long MoT, one lady owner. £1,075 ono. 07815 136632.

FORD KA Short MoT, Y reg, colour coded, body/engine perfect, room need, £400 ono. 01384 457219.

FORD PUMA black, 02 plate, MoT end of Aug, 99,500 miles, fsh, excellent condition. £850 ono. 07813 117387.

HONDA CIVIC 1600, Y reg, silver, two owners, long MoT, Tax, very good condition, very reliable. £700. 01902 689830.

HYUNDAI COUPE SE, 2004, 80,000 miles, blue, sunroof, electric windows, long MoT. New clutch fitted. £795 ono. 07722 838026.

HYUNDAI GETZ 1.1 GSi, late 2004, 5dr, silver, fsh, MoT February, tax December, immaculate throughout. £1,295 ono. 07445 790811.

LANDROVER Freelander, 1999, spares/repair, running order, needs a bit of work. £1,000 ono. 07561 317584.

LANDROVER FREELANDER W reg, MoT'd, Spares or Repair. New tyres. Side steps. £550. o.n.o. 07561 317584.

MAZDA MX5 1993, 6 months tax and MoT, excellent condition, high mileage. £1,000 ono. 07979 405407.

MERCEDES E300 TD 1998, (R) Auto, long MoT/Tax, SH, good, clean condition. Smaller car for sale. £1,300 ono. 07796 641370.

PEUGEOT 106 51 reg, very good condition, 6 months tax and MoT, British racing green. £595 ono. 07528 272709.

PEUGEOT 206 GTI, 2000 X reg, 120k miles, manual, MoT, alloy, new brakes, remote stereo. £530. 07950 398750.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.4, 16v, Fidji model, 52 reg, full MoT, 1 months tax, 70,000 miles. £375 ono. 07933 018920 or 0121 5303219.

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.6, 2001, full MoT, 2 months tax, very good condition for year, serviced regular. £995 ono. 07905 139674.

TOYOTA COROLLA Sportif SE, green, M reg, 44,000 miles, 6 months tax, 3 months MoT, sunroof, good condition. £900. Telephone 01902 593878.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 Club, 54 reg, 5-dr, auto, new shape, good condition, 48k, taxed, MoT, £1,350 ono. 071 857814.

VAUXHALL CORSA Club, 03 reg, 12 months MoT, 5 months tax, silver, 3dr hatch, £1,000 ono. 01902 658093.

VAUXHALL CORSA GLS 1.7, diesel, 3 door, silver, 1999, V reg, with 96,000 miles. MoT until Oct 2014. £450 ono. 01384 256413.

VAUXHALL CORSA MoT till April, 2 month tax, 85,000 miles, red, clean and tidy, £275 ono. Please call 07584 191733.

classic cars

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 Private cash buyer
 Instant cash settlement.
 Any age, any condition.
 Call Market Drayton.
 01630 652993.

MORRIS MINOR, 1968, good condition, taxed and MoT, lots of money spent on her, reluctant sale, £2,800. 07909 857811.

commercial vehicles

PEUGEOT PARTNER 600 VAN, 2001, 75,000 miles, 12 months MoT, £1,150. 01922 495631 or 07768 841443.

RENAULT KANGOO Car deferred van, 02, 1.9 D65, MoT till March, good condition, timing belt, water pump changed, serviced in Jan 14, rear seats and roofbars. £1,100. 07941 547924.

driving tuition

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 01562 870050 / 01384 234954
 01543 660120 / 0121 564 0090
 01902 580065
 www.homersdriving.co.uk

motorbikes

APRILIA SR50R 2013, brought from new, great condition, 2,000 miles. £1,200 ono. 07961 931856.

PEUGEOT VIVACITY SCOOTER 50cc, 1989, full tax and MoT, good condition. £450 ono. 0744 089063.

TRIUMPH BONNEVILLE SE, 865cc, 2011, phoenix black, tax, 2,173 miles, one owner. £4,600. Telephone 01384 877423.

YAMAHA 550 Maxim, black and silver, 12 months MoT, new battery. £500. 01936 553083.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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vehicles wanted

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spares & accessories

accessories & services

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
 For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Speed Cushions/Tables Consultation
 The council proposes to construct speed tables and speed cushions to reduce the speed of vehicles at the following locations:
 Location: length(m); width(m); height(mm); measure
 Harvest Road, outside properties 19-21: 2.5; 6; 7; 75; cushions
 Harvest Road junction with Fallowfield Road, outside properties 62-64 Harvest Road: 22.0; 7.5; 65; table
 Harvest Road junction with Duddill Road, outside properties 5-17 Harvest Field: 22.0; 7.5; 65; table
 Full details may be examined at: Area Director Street Scene, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3DE during normal office hours and at www.sandwell.gov.uk
 Objections in writing by 29/08/14, to Mr Irfan Choudry, Highways, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3DE, email: highways@sandwell.gov.uk

10 Personals**personal**

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 Queen Street,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN, 68
 Young, modern outlook, with a variety of interests, seeks a lady 60-68 years, for friendship, perhaps if compatible, a permanent long-term relationship.
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GENTLEMAN 70
 Would like to meet gentleman over 55, for Friendship, holidays and enjoying any types of sport.
 Wolverhampton and surrounding areas.
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STRAIGHT FEMALE YOUNG 50
 Friendly, chatty, GSOH, WLTW female Friends for nights out, girly chats, meals, holidays etc. Brierley Hill and surrounding areas.
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 Express and Star,
 Queen Street,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

TALL, SMART, STRAIGHT, GOOD NATURED LADY, 67
 Seeks Friends, male/female, with transport (costs shared) for cinema, theatre, meals out, etc.
 Rowley Regis and surrounding area.
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LOOK

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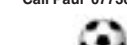


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GOALKEEPER & DEFENDERS WANTED.
FA Coach and CRB checked.
For more info call Steve: 07736 598 970.



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Training Monday 7pm-8pm
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Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

JAN 58fins slim pretty lady in great shape, open-minded, laidback, GSOH, O/RAC, many interests, W/LTM someone for cuddling up with and to share good and bad times. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412931**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 410127**

ANN slim attractive N/S lady who is easy to get along with looking for romantic interesting man for new adventures together, hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412911**

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to share conversation and have a great time, friendship/relationship, who knows? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412777**

ZOE, 25yrs, very naughty seeks man any age for broad minded no strings fun and games. **Tel No: 0905 002 1933 Box 409719**

FELICITY professional female, 32yrs, blonde, curvy, fun. Travels a lot and w/lm chap for occasional fun on my travels. **Text only Box: 4459438**

SALLY stunning lady looking for dinner dates, partying and generally having a good time with generous man looking for his mojo! No strings, go on call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412599**

DEBS petite attractive auburn haired, good listener, romantic, enjoys socialising, cosy nights in with Mr Right, seeking similar caring N/S single dad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412387**

SUE, 38yrs, passionate, broadminded and feisty seeks discreet fun with "mr wrong". **ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box 413007**

JAN slim curvy professional warm, affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412167**

FUN loving lady, likes most things in life, would like to meet fun loving man for possible romance. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4454362**

EUROPEAN beauty romantic, caring, attentive, looking for loving male to enjoy warm loving relationship with, call me to find out more. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413013**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. **ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 405297**

KAREN 34 blue/green eyed size 12 attractive brunette who loves pubs, cosy nights in kids, seeking special honest guy/dad for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413005**

ROSA 27 sexy senorita seeking older handsome prince charming to whisk me off my feet, enjoy fun times, improve my English and fall in love with. Age/race unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412927**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019**

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329**

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call cost £1.53 per min
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REPLY 26123456 hi get in touch...
then send to **80098**

Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

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Been left a message? Pickup your replies on:
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calls cost £1.53 per min
PLUS you can also listen to other members greetings on this number.

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Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

ALAN tall widower, 76, looking for female of similar age who enjoys meals out, holidays, walks and holidays. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412261**

ROY mid 60's, N/S, car driver, young outlook, seeks lady for friendship. West Bromwich area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412083**

TALL slim gent, 60, seeks slim, attractive lady for no strings relationship. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412227**

IAN 65, romantic, likes to wine/dine, days out, seeking younger female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412087**

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Brunt to stay as captain – Irvine

CHRIS Brunt will stay on as Albion captain this season after boss Alan Irvine hailed the midfielder's "respect" in the dressing room.

The Northern Ireland international, who is on course to be fit for the start of the Premier League campaign, will keep the armband under a fifth Baggies head coach.

Brunt had his pre-season preparations delayed by a summer hernia operation but played his first 90 minutes in Tuesday's 3-2 defeat at Port Vale.

"Chris will absolutely be our captain," said Irvine. "There's absolutely no reason to change it. I can't see any reason whatsoever to do that."

"He has the respect of the changing room and he's done a great job as captain for many years so I have no intention of making any changes. It was absolutely fantastic to get 90 minutes from Chris on Tuesday."

"The game was as much for him as it was for anyone else. We decided to rest as much as we could the lads who had played the most in pre-season and it was terrific for Chris to play 90 minutes – a big bonus."

Brunt was appointed skipper by Roberto Di Matteo.

Late score for Tipton gains point

NEW-LOOK Tipton Town opened their Midland League Premier Division campaign with a 2-2 draw at Loughborough University.

Tipton took the lead when Danny Carey-Bertram kept his cool to finish after being played in by Matt Ellis.

Loughborough pulled back right on half-time when James Smith upended Jason Davis and Kamran Frost levelled from the spot.

Hesitancy in the Tipton penalty area in the 56th minute proved their undoing. Daniel Brennan putting the home side in front from close range.

Three minutes from time Josh March drove home after a free-kick was only partly cleared to earn the visitors a point.

Hot Summers' night that was a knockout

TIPTON'S Ricky Summers saved his best knockout for his big break on TV as opponent Curtis Gargano was counted out in front of the BoxNation cameras.

The two engaged in a slugfest before the finish came, four rounds into a scheduled six, at Wolverhampton Civic Hall last night, writes Craig Birch.

Summers, the only Black Country boy on the bill, was risking a proposed title shot at Dudley's The Venue on September 19 to compete in front of a national audience.

He refused to get drawn into a brawl with Gargano, who replaced Mitch Mitchell for

Boxing

the light-heavyweight contest, and took him out with just 20 seconds of the fourth session left.

Summers said: "I will enjoy this and then turn my focus towards the next fight night in Dudley."

"Hopefully, all of my supporters can follow me on that journey as well."

A cagey first round saw Summers stay patient behind the jab, as Gargano got on his toes and made himself a moving target.

The Mancunian tried to wind Summers up by imploring him to 'come on' at the end of the second round, after tasting a right uppercut flush to the jaw.

Summers' head was rocked back as one shot from a Gargano flurry slipped through, but good combination punching reminded him who was boss during this battle.

With the bit between his teeth, Summers bided his time waiting for the opportune moment to come when he could crumple up Gargano with a loaded right hook to the ribs, forcing him to take a knee.

He made some attempts to rise to his feet

but had no real interest in continuing, failing to beat referee Terry O'Connor's call to 10.

Summers said: "He just stopped behind his guard and kept it nice and tight, he just survived."

"People like that stop you performing at your best."

"I am a counter-puncher, I show my power when people come on to me," said Summers.

"I kept on picking my shots until I could finish him off."

"I waited to throw that right hook..."

Para-cycling needs higher profile, Scott

HELEN SCOTT has called for para-cycling to get the recognition it deserves after her double Commonwealth Games gold.

The Halesowen racer has returned to training at British Cycling hopeful her sport's profile is again on the rise.

Scott and teenager Sophie Thornhill won gold in the sprint tandem on day one and followed it with victory in the 1km time trial tandem in Glasgow.

"They clocked a Games' record of 1.08.187 minutes to deny home hopes Scotland's Aileen McGlynn and Louise Haston gold."

"I knew from the very first rev it would be a good one but I had no idea we would go that fast," Scott said afterwards.

It was the first time the para-sprint tandem had been in the Games and Scott does not want it to be the last, although she admitted that it was not clear whether it would continue in the Commonwealth schedule.

"It was amazing to be with the able-bodied teammates, it's a bit of novelty, and it was good to get the recognition which we don't usually get when we're just doing para-cycling," said Scott, who celebrated her 24th birthday during the Glasgow Games.

"It's the first time it's been in and it could be the last so we're glad we enjoyed it. Hopefully it proved para-cycling, especially the real crowd pleaser."

"I don't know who the people in charge are but hopefully they were watching and it would be nice to

Commonwealth Games

have it in again. We didn't cause any trouble, we weren't any hassle."

"The cycling World Cups are long days and maybe we could have events – a different one in each World Cup – and be integrated with the able-bodied athletes."

"It's such a shame because at the time people are 'this is absolutely brilliant' and then nothing seems to happen."

"Hopefully being at the Games with the able-bodied team gives it a little bit more of a push."

"It's crazy the men's tandem sprint isn't in the Paralympics too and hopefully that'll be resolved."

"We have got our own World Cups lined up in the next few years so progress is being made, it's slow and steady."

Scott won Paralympic silver and bronze with McGlynn at London 2012 and she believes it was a fitting setting for her 41-year-old Team GB colleague if she decides to quit.

"It was better than the Olympics, simply because we won two golds but the crowd were amazing."



Proud Sophie Thornhill, left, and Helen Scott show off their gold medals

Firsts' run of good results continues

Warwick & Worcester Premier Division 1
The George 251
NIFO 152

THE first team's run of good form continued with a 99 shot victory against NIFO.

The George led by 43 shots after the first four with wins by Jamie Dunn (21-8), Elliot McGuinness (21-13), Phil Clinton and Mick McGuinness (both 21-10).

The middle four proved too strong for NIFO with Pete Davenport (21-9), Paul Hemming (21-13), Ivan Smout (21-16) and Shane Day (21-17) increasing the lead to 72 shots.

The back four completed a comfortable victory with Steve Dicken (21-4), Darling (21-11) and Mark Street (21-20) all winning.

South Staffs Premier Div
Nordley B 196
The George 212

The second team's 16-shot away win at Nordley has almost certainly guaranteed their survival in the top division. Steve Fagan (21-8) and Keith Walton (21-9) did the damage for The George.

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 2
The George 251
Ye Olde Knowle 143

The third team had a big 108 shot home win.

Scholars share in the spoils

Chasetown 2
Smethwick Rangers 2

CHASETOWN started brightly and took the lead with a close range effort from Jazz Luckie. Smethwick played some neat, attractive football as the half progressed and deservedly equalised through Gurjit Singh midway through the half.

On the stroke of half-time, the visitors took the lead when the Kris Dickson netted from close range. The Scholars levelled late on with a well-taken volley from Jordan Nadat from the edge of the penalty area and they almost won the match when Dexter Ravenhill's fired a shot but it came back off the post and both teams had to settle for the draw.

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Score by Dukes rescues the Tivs

Tividale 1 Halesowen Town 1
A goal in the 89th minute from Matt Jukes rescued a draw for Tividale, who played several trialists against a team who will line up one league above them this season.

Tividale were playing their second game in a week after a 7-1 romp at Bromsgrove Sporting and the visitors were also in good pre-season form, having beaten Sturport 6-0 in their last game.

The game started brightly, both teams looking lively but it was Halesowen who took the lead on 18 minutes when Tividale goalkeeper Charlie Price failed to deal with a routine free kick and Iyseden Christie tapped the ball home.

Price was replaced in goal by Tom Turner for the second half.

But neither could find the breakthrough until Juke's last minute header at the far post.

A worry for Halesowen was midfielder Aaron Forde going off with a hamstring injury.

Halesowen: Sargeant, Green, Griffiths, Forde, Hull, Tilt, Bragoli, Turner, Christie, Thompson Brown, Till

Subs: Lait, Pearson, MacKenzie, Tonks, Haseley, Kettle, Bowen.

Ellie is in the medals again

WALSALL swimming star Ellie Simmonds smashed her personal best time but just missed out on gold at the IPC European Championships.

The 19-year-old secured her second medal of the championships – following on from a gold last week – in the final of the S6 50m freestyle.

Simmonds clocked a time of 35.23 seconds, beating her previous personal best of 35.76 seconds set in the morning heats – also a new British record – to finish 0.04 seconds behind Ukraine's Yelyzaveta Mereshko.

Olena Fedota bagged bronze, 2.46 seconds adrift at the Pieter van den Hoogenband Stadium in Eindhoven.

It was sweet revenge for Mereshko after she lost to Simmonds in the S6, 400m freestyle.

Albion keep an eye on Potters' striker Walters

ALBION have added Stoke striker Jon Walters to their summer transfer watchlist.

The Baggies are keeping tabs on the Ireland international as they look for attacking reinforcements.

The 30-year-old is on a lengthy list of potential signings as Irvine looks to beef up his forward line for the new Premier League season.

And, while they are not expected to make a move imminently for the former Ipswich forward, he could emerge as a target later in the transfer window.

Walters is a close friend of Baggies de-

Football

fender Gareth McAuley having played alongside the Northern Ireland man at Portman Road. And his versatility – he has operated as a central striker and a wide player for the Potters – could appeal to Irvine.

Walters is under contract for another year at the Britannia Stadium so would command a transfer fee but there are signs that Potters boss Mark Hughes would be willing to listen to offers.

Albion are targeting wingers and a striker to complete their squad but have cooled their interest in French wideman Jonathan Biabiany, contrary to reports in Italy yesterday of a £6m bid for the Parma man.

Recent scouting reports have been mixed and, while the Baggies have not ruled out re-igniting their interest at a later date, the 26-year-old now appears an unlikely arrival at The Hawthorns.

Burnley are considering their next move in the battle for Craig Dawson after having a third bid of around £1.5m turned down.

Dawson has also had a transfer request knocked back but Burnley are still interested.

The centre-back scored a bizarre own-goal to condemn the Baggies to a 3-2 defeat at Port Vale last week, with Irvine later admitting his side's defending was poor.

"I worried about the defending," said Irvine. "That's not going to be acceptable. It was really poor defending."

The goal from a set piece is something we need to do better and we will get to work on that and the first goal they got was poor defending going through several individuals."

Yeltz duo will face tough test

HALESOWEN TOWN chairman Colin Brookes believes striking duo Iyseden Christie and Ben Haseley will face tougher tests in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League this season.

Between them Christie and Haseley bagged 59 goals as Halesowen clinched the Evo-Stik Division One South title last year.

The club have won one, drawn two and lost two in pre-season ahead of the visit of Hednesford Town tonight in their final pre-season fixture. It's a 7.45pm kick-off.

Brookes insists the club is excited to begin their new campaign at Skelmersdale United on August 16.

He said: "Iyseden and Ben got almost 60 goals between them. They're both staying with us for this campaign. They'll both come up against more experienced defenders, who have played Football League and Conference football. We don't have anyone else who has played in a higher league than what we've been promoted to other than Leon McKenzie and Iyseden."

Midfielder Danny Bragoli has joined Halesowen from Chasetown.

Gamboa happy at dream move

CRISTIAN GAMBOA says his move to Albion is a "dream come true".

The Costa Rica international completed his switch to The Hawthorns on a three-year contract after the Baggies did a £2m deal with Rosenborg.

And the 24-year-old said: "It's a dream come true. "I feel really happy."

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketter, Telford, Thursday, August 7

YELTZ TRIUMPH OVER THE PITMEN

Halesowen Town 2 Hednesford Town 1
HALESOWEN triumphed over Vanarama Conference North Hednesford Town to maintain the encouraging set of results'

The Yeltz dealt comfortably with early Pitmen pressure as Ben Bailey's header from a 9th minute corner was blocked.

Halesowen then looked dangerous and twice went close with Danny Crane saving well in the 25th minute.

Hotshot Ben Haseley opened the scoring in the 35th minute after Jamie Ashmore missed a through ball from Neil MacKenzie, allowing Haseley to calmly round Crane and slot home.

The Pitmen levelled on the stroke of half-time following panic in the home defence when Paul Sullivan controlled a cross and lofted the ball over home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant and an ensuing collision between home defenders Curtis Tilt and Kris Green resulted in an own goal.

Unstoppable

But Tilt struck an unstoppable winning 20-yard volley from the edge of the penalty area for Halesowen just seven minutes into the second half and then went close with a 65th minute header from an Aaron Griffiths corner.

Late on, Iyseden Christie fired over the Hednesford bar after combining with substitute Robert Thompson-Brown in the 82nd minute and with four minutes remaining Hednesford's Lewis Taylor-Boyce screwed an opening wide of the post.

Football

Halesowen Town: Sargeant (Pearson 75); Green, Charlton, MacKenzie (Lait 65), Hull (c), Tilt, Bragoli, Tonks, Christie, Haseley (Thompson-Brown 65), A. Griffiths (Bowen 80).

Hednesford Town: Crane; S. Griffiths, Taylor (c), Ashmore (Francis 60).

Bailey (McCone 60), MacPherson (Melbourne 60), Glover, Thorley, Robinson

(Markall 65), Sullivan, Taylor-Boyce.

Referee: Stuart England

Attendance: 250

The Yeltz will now face Black Country Rangers in a pre-season friendly at The Grove on Saturday after Warrington Town pulled out of their planned fixture because of injuries.

The game will kick off at 2pm.

● Halesowen Town have launched their new home kit for the next two seasons.

Fans can pre-order their home shirt online.

The shirts are £22 and have been subsidised by sponsors Ace Embroidery and Stewardson Developments, but this price is for a limited period only.



Marvin Robinson in control of the ball as a Yeltz player bears down on him in the pre-season friendly

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